

President warns US troops they may face 'personal sacrifice' as Iraq rounds up more hostages

Angry Bush takes a step closer to war

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ANDREW McEWEN IN LONDON

PRESIDENT Bush took the United States a step closer to hostilities yesterday by accusing Iraq of holding Americans hostage and warning that sacrifices would be needed to defend freedom.

He condemned the use of foreigners as "pawns" in an angry speech and said it was "an offence against all norms of international behaviour".

As more Americans and British citizens were rounded up, the president said Baghdad was holding US citizens hostage and would be responsible for their safety. The British government continued to avoid the word hostage, but announced that a further 82 nationals had been taken away.

British diplomats have established that 48 of them are being held in two civilian buildings, but the whereabouts of the others is unknown. Twenty-seven French people have been rounded up, including a girl aged four, travelling without her parents.

Iraq has said that it will use the foreigners as a human shield against an attack, holding them in accommodation attached to factories and other strategic buildings. At least 35 of the 3,000 Americans in Kuwait and Iraq are understood to have been moved to munitions and chemicals plants.

Baghdad implicitly threatened the death penalty against people sheltering foreigners, Baghdad radio said. "Holding a foreigner in an Iraqi place of residence is considered a

flagrant violation of the law, for which the severest punishment will be given."

However, a member of the Kuwaiti cabinet, who requested anonymity, said he believed most Kuwaitis would be glad to hide Britons and other foreigners. "In the Arab world, if you are my guest we take care of you. The Kuwait people are very concerned

their staff would be regarded as ordinary foreign nationals."

However, Britain has told Michael Weston, its ambassador in Kuwait, that he and his staff should stay as long as they can. Poland also said it would refuse to close its embassy. About 13,000 Westerners and Japanese are among two million foreigners trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

Baghdad has continued to treat citizens of countries not involved in enforcing the UN Security Council's trade sanctions more favourably. Iraq said yesterday that it would allow Argentines to leave as a mark of gratitude for their government's decision not to send troops to the Gulf. About 700 Indonesians in Kuwait and an unknown number in Iraq were also to be freed.

Other non-Westerners continued to leave the two countries in large numbers, mostly via Jordan where more than 10,000 are arriving daily. Jordan said it was having trouble coping with the influx and had asked Iraq to reduce the flow.

The US State Department advised all Americans to defer non-essential travel to Jordan. It said it was allowing non-essential embassy staff to leave and suggested other Americans should consider following suit. The Foreign Office has not yet advised Britons against travelling to Jordan.

The United States and Britain were trying yesterday to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to a further UN Security Council resolution that would approve the use of force to maintain trade sanctions against Iraq. Moscow's position remained unclear, but Mr Bush thanked President Gorbachev for his condemnation of the invasion.

"He has shown, if anyone doubted it, that nations which joined to fight aggression in World War Two can work together to stop the aggressors of today."

Damascus Radio, which is seen as the voice of the Syrian government, condemned the Iraqi decision to take hostages and said it increased the risk of war in the Gulf. Syria, Egypt and Morocco, have sent troops to help defend Saudi Arabia as part of an Arab force approved by the Arab League in Cairo ten days ago.

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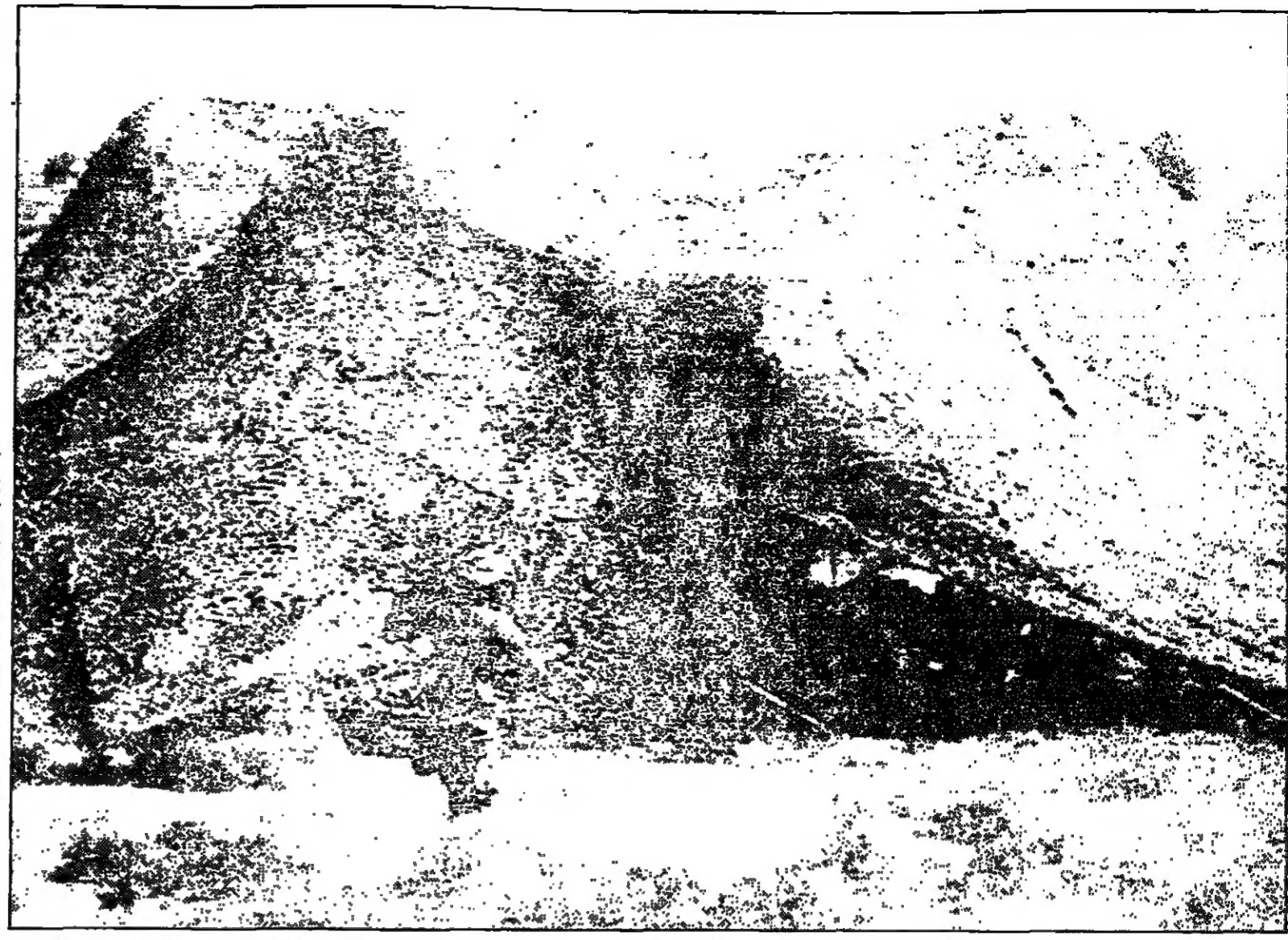
about the welfare of the foreigners," he said.

Washington had been as reluctant as London to use the word hostage, but President Bush set aside his hesitation yesterday. "There can be little doubt that whatever these innocent people are called, they are in fact hostages," he said in a speech to American war veterans.

"I will hold the government of Iraq responsible for the safety, and well-being of American citizens held against their will. Leaders who use citizens as pawns deserve and will receive the scorn and condemnation of the entire world."

The US President called the situation "a crisis that will require American planning, patience, and yes, personal sacrifice, a sacrifice that we must and will meet if we are to stop aggression..." He said he had spoken by telephone yesterday morning to Margaret Thatcher, "a great friend of the US".

Westerners in Iraq have begun to seek refuge in their embassies, fearing that they too might be used as shields. The British, American and Italian embassies have been accepting people since Saturday. The possibility that Western diplomats in Kuwait might also be rounded up arose yesterday when Baghdad said that if embassies in the city did not close by Friday,



Desert camouflage: an American soldier returning to a vast tent at an undisclosed location in the Saudi Arabian desert as more troops dig in

Kuwait draws on assets

By OUR DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Bank of England has given the Kuwaiti government-in-exile permission to use income from the Kuwait Investment Office in Britain to finance its running costs, it was disclosed yesterday.

Britain froze Kuwait assets on August 3, the day after the Iraqi invasion, but the bank has authority to make exceptions. A member of the Kuwaiti cabinet, who requested anonymity, said the bank had agreed that the running costs were a legitimate use of the investment office's huge income.

Whitehall sources said the aim of freezing the funds was to prevent them falling into the wrong hands. The Kuwaiti government continues to be recognised internationally as the owner of the assets.

The bank's decision explains how Kuwait's foreign embassies have been able to remain open, administering costly welfare services to Kuwaitis stranded abroad. These include free air tickets and hotel expenses for Kuwaitis wanting to fly to Gulf countries, where free accommodation is still being offered.

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Standards in schools 'worst in the West'

By JOHN O'LEARY AND NIGEL HAWKES

STRONG criticism of British educational performance from a leading academic and former government adviser yesterday prompted fresh controversy over school standards.

Sir Claus Moser, warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and a former head of the Government Statistical Service, in an address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, called for a royal commission on education because neither government nor opposition were displaying the vision needed to arrest Britain's slide.

"Hundreds of thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation," he said. British education had declined and no longer matched Europe, Japan or, for higher education, the United States. Britain was in danger of becoming among the least adequately educated of the advanced nations.

Sir Claus said: "I suspect that, at root, Britain - or perhaps I should say England - does not care as much about

education as other countries." The 1990s needed to be Britain's decade for education.

Standards were especially poor in the sciences and there were serious deficiencies in primary schools. More resources were needed and salaries had to be raised.

Michael Fallon, under-secretary at the education department, defended the government's record and insisted that its reforms were beginning to produce results. He declined to answer specific criticisms made by Sir Claus, but said that the government was building on the most substantial programmes of reforms since 1944.

The publication meanwhile of new statistics showed record numbers of students entering higher education. The figures confirmed that the number of students in Britain topped one million for the first time in 1988.

Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, said applications for places this autumn were 6 per cent up on last year.

The controversy broke on the day that the Liberal Democrats launched their new education policies, *Putting pupils first*. Matthew Taylor, the party's education spokesman, promised that the Liberal Democrats would substantially increase resources for education.

QE2 sails to stricken oil rig

By KERRY GILL

A NORWEGIAN drilling rig with 49 people on board broke from its tow and had its helicopter deck broken off during gales and high seas in the Danish sector of the North Sea yesterday. A freak wave is thought to have hit the helideck, driving it into the sea.

None of the crew was injured, but the QE2, on passage to the Norwegian fjords, was diverted to the scene, about 200 miles east of Newcastle upon Tyne and 130 miles from Esbjerg, Denmark.

The Aberdeen coastguard said that the rig was on tow in rough seas in the Gorm field when it broke loose and began drifting in winds of up to 80mph. The crew were on the upper deck and all are safe. The rescue operation was co-ordinated by Danish coastguards.

Cunard said that the QE2 changed course in response to a distress call. The liner later left the area once the emergency services were stood down.

Indemnity withdrawn

South Africa has withdrawn temporary indemnity from arrest from the military leader of the African National Congress and two colleagues after allegations of ANC guerrilla infiltration and a communist conspiracy.

Chris Hani, the chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, Ronnie Kasrils, its former intelligence chief, and Sathyaendranath Maharaj were omitted from a government gazette extending indemnity until the end of the year.

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Engineer exams

The Engineering Council exam results for Chartered Engineers and Incorporated Engineers are published today.

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Lending down

Lending by banks and building societies grew by only £3.9 billion last month, the smallest monthly increase since August 1987.

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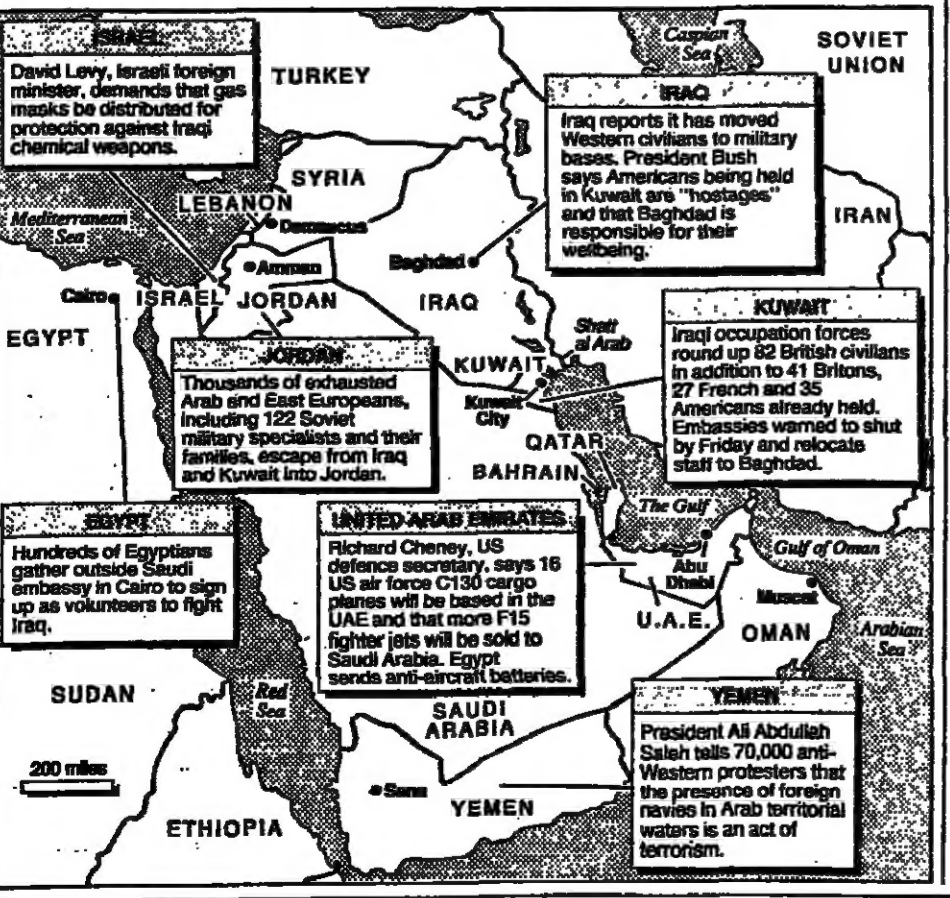
Derby reported

Derbyshire have been reported to the Test and County Cricket Board for poor pitch preparation. They could lose 25 points, which would end their chances of winning the county championship.

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Degree vacancies

The first complete list of degree course vacancies in polytechnics and 43 colleges of higher education will be published in tomorrow's *Times*. The full list of university vacancies will follow on Thursday and the two sectors will appear next Monday. Remaining vacancies will be broken down by subjects to be published every weekday for a month. The information will also be available through Campus 2000, the educational computer network.



Siberian hijack ends in Karachi

From ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

ELEVEN Soviet prisoners who overpowered their guards on a domestic flight over Siberia and seized control of the aircraft surrendered peacefully to Pakistani commandos yesterday at Karachi airport after the personal intervention of the Soviet prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov.

The two-day odyssey ended when the hijackers, armed with machine guns, pistols and home-made explosives, agreed to free their captives and give themselves up before seeking political asylum.

Soviet domestic flights have been plagued by a wave of hijacks this summer, mainly by dissatisfied youths seeking asylum in the West.

The latest incident began on Sunday when 15 prisoners on an Aeroflot flight disarmed their guards and took over the

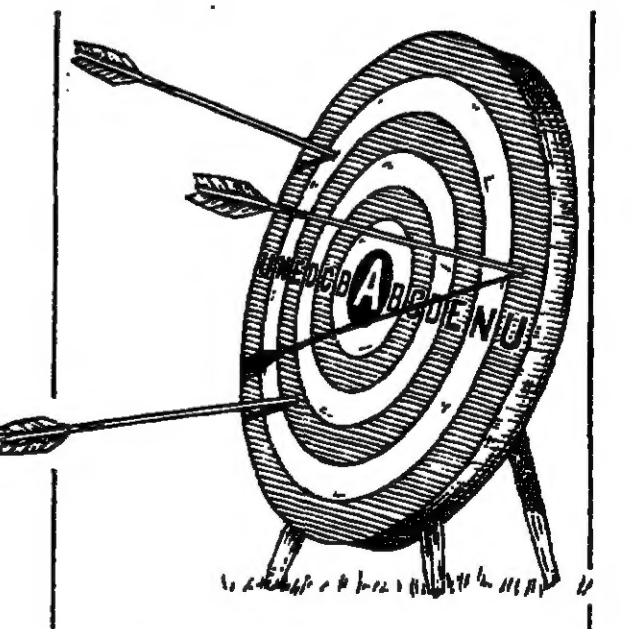
plane, which was flying from Narynburg, Yakutia, 3,500 miles east of Moscow, to the city of Yakutsk.

They forced the plane to return to Narynburg, where their labour camp was located, officials said. Six prisoners decided to leave the plane, but two more joined the hijackers, the Soviet Interior Ministry spokesman, Yuri Arshenkov, said.

The hijackers allowed the 41 women and children among the remaining 70 passengers to leave the airliner in Narynburg. They then flew west to Krasnoyarsk, where the authorities negotiated with them for two hours and allowed them to refuel.

The plane flew to Tashkent in Soviet Uzbekistan and the Yakutsk crew was replaced.

Continued on page 16, col 5



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Carpet-buyers urged to pay cash before crash

By GILLIAN BOWITCH

LOWNDES Queensway customers were being encouraged to pay for their orders in cash in advance just one week before receivers were called into the furniture and carpets group, it emerged last night.

Liz Law, from Peterborough, who paid £741 for a carpet, was telephoned twice by her local Carpetland on August 8 and told that if she paid in full that day, 20 per cent would be deducted from an earlier quotation. Mrs Law said the shop accepted a £50 deposit on her Access card and she paid the balance by cheque the next day. She was given a delivery date of August 18. A week after she was telephoned by the shop, the receivers were called in.

Lowndes Queensway also placed

advertisements in most of the daily tabloid newspapers on Tuesday, August 7, offering 20 per cent off all carpet orders at Carpetland and Queensway the next day. Nowhere in the advertisement did it say that customers had to pay in full. Mr and Mrs Ron Strutt, of Guildford, who had already ordered a £796 carpet, were told by their local Carpetland that they would receive 20 per cent off if they cut out the advertisement and paid for the carpet in full. They paid by cheque a week before the group went into receivership.

An insolvency expert at the accountancy firm Touche Ross said that the practice of encouraging people to pay in full by companies which were in financial difficulties was dubious, but did not appear to be illegal. Customers

may still get back most of their money through a £15 million insurance policy put in place by Lowndes in January to cover customer deposits. There are fears, however, that after the costs of processing the insurance claims are met, the money left may not cover the deposits in full.

Yesterday Lowndes made 120 staff at its head office in Orpington, Kent, redundant. More of the 4,000 workforce are expected to lose their jobs.

More than 100 Lowndes employees, mostly regional managers, attended a five-hour meeting with Nigel Hamilton and Terry Carter, the receivers, yesterday. The employees were told that the company's 417 shops should be open tomorrow and were briefed on how to handle customers.



Mrs Law: offered discount by local Carpetland

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US faces dilemma over 'surgical strike' and plight of hostages

From MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

BY ROUNDING up 3,000 Americans and threatening to use them as human shields, President Saddam Hussein risks precipitating the US strike his move was designed to forestall.

The Bush administration is aware of how past hostage problems paralysed the Carter presidency and sucked Ronald Reagan into the Iran-Contra "arms for hostages" debacle. The Bush presidency is determined that it will not founder on the same rocks.

Within Congress, there appears to be a firm resolve that American conduct in the Gulf confrontation should not be dictated by the plight of the hostages. Many independent experts, noting that President Saddam is using the hostages to manipulate US public opinion, are arguing that the administration should consider a swift military strike, despite the risk to the

trapped Americans, before they come to dominate the national consciousness.

"The longer the hostages are there, the more that the news surrounding them and the private sufferings of their families divert attention from the real issues in the crisis," said Adam Garfinkle, senior analyst and Middle East expert at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. "The tilt of the expert community is going to be towards doing something decisive soon rather than waiting."

The administration has refused to use the emotive term "hostages", lest it enhance their value to Iraq as bargaining chips, and has withheld the identities of those held to prevent their plight from acquiring too human a face.

However, the distressed families of those detained in Iraq and Kuwait are surfacing in the media, letting their fears and agonies pour out, urging negotiations, in some cases criticising Mr Bush for playing golf while their loved ones are

trapped, and undermining the national resolve to stand firm against the Iraqi dictator.

President Saddam is exploiting this to the full. On Sunday, he delivered a televised address to the families of those held in which he said that Washington could secure their release by withdrawing its forces.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House armed services committee, warned that concern for the hostages must not be allowed to influence decision-making. It had to be balanced by "not letting our policy be driven by the existence of hostages or be paralysed by it", he said. "We are in a world in which the use of military force anywhere in the world is likely to raise the issue of hostages. So we have got to learn to live with the problem. Hostages are a fact of life."

Lee Hamilton, the second most senior Democrat on the House foreign affairs committee, said the president had a responsibility to citizens held

against their will by another country. "That's a very high priority and it weighs heavily on a president and any leader in this government," he said. "But that's not the only interest involved here... we have an interest in the free flow of oil at reasonable prices in the Gulf."

Mr Aspin said this situation differed from previous hostage dilemmas in that the identity of the hostage-taker was clear. "You say to Saddam Hussein, 'You are responsible for the safety of these hostages and we are holding you responsible... We at least know the address of the person responsible, so if we need to send a message we know where to send it'."

Increasingly, experts are warning of the dangers of a protracted economic siege and calling for military action. Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, said on Sunday that the administration should consider "surgical and progressive destruction" of Iraq's military assets.

Avigdor Haselkorn, a Middle East scholar, said the rounding-up of hostages was an Iraqi ploy to gain time. "The more you wait, the less Bush will be backed by the world," Dr Garfinkle commented. "What are we waiting for? We've got the air power to inflict massive damage. Do we really think sitting out there in the desert is going to bring Saddam around? Forget it."

Mr Bush has deliberately proceeded with his Kennebunkport holiday to avoid comparisons with Mr Carter who became a captive of the White House during his hostage dilemma. He has played down the plight of the American detainees, describing them as recently as last Tuesday as "inconvenienced people who want to get out". President Saddam's actions over the weekend, say the experts, have rendered that approach untenable and demand an administration response commensurate with the transparent gravity of the situation.

LONDON

Thatcher likely to break her self-imposed silence

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister is expected to break her uncharacteristic self-imposed silence on the turmoil in the Gulf and make a public statement of her views. Her remarks, which are expected to cover the threat to about 4,500 Britons held in Kuwait and Iraq, could come today.

According to government sources, she is very concerned at their plight. She also wants Foreign Office consular officials in the area to be seen to be doing all they can to protect the interests of British nationals, which she believes they are. Mrs Thatcher, who returned on Sunday from a week's holiday in Cornwall, has made no public comment on President Saddam's aggression since her meetings with President Bush in the United States shortly after the invasion on August 2.

The prime minister, who has adopted a measured tone towards the confrontation in the belief that it is unlikely to be resolved swiftly, yesterday met her senior ministerial colleagues for nearly two hours at Downing Street. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said recall of Parliament was discussed, but no decisions were taken. Government sources confirmed the position was unchanged, but could alter if there was a "shooting war" in the region.

But Sir Rhodes Boyson, one of the few senior Tory MPs to have publicly demanded a recall, gave a warning that it would set a "terrible precedent" for the "sounding board of the nation" to be silenced when Western civilisation was facing its biggest threat in recent times.

The Downing Street meeting was also attended by Tom King, the defence secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, and Alan Clark, the minister of state for defence procurement, who as the prime minister's personal emissary has just returned from a tour of friendly Arab states in the Gulf.

On his first day back from holiday, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, discussed by

telephone the tensions in the region with Gerald Kaufman, his chief foreign affairs spokesman. The Labour leadership remains opposed to a recall of Parliament.

Leadership sources said Labour did not favour a recall at present because it could "create a drama out of a crisis" with so many British lives at stake. Bringing back MPs and peers would also raise expectations of action that could not be fulfilled. "We should not heighten the tension by taking the immense step of recalling Parliament," a senior insider said. However, Labour might take a different view if there was

some dramatic escalation of the confrontation or if the government took steps with which it disagreed strongly.

In another development, it was disclosed that members of the European Parliament are likely to become the first group of European politicians formally to debate the Gulf tensions.

Enrique Barón, the Spanish president of the European Parliament, has called an emergency meeting of its most senior grouping, the 35-strong political committee, for next Tuesday to hold discussions with members of the Brussels commission and the council of ministers. Edward Mo-

Millan-Scott, Tory MEP for York, a member of the committee, said it was necessary to beef up the political dimension of the Community's response to events in the Gulf. It was giving the impression of "sitting on its hands" and was moving at the pace of the slowest member.

The Italians, who currently hold the EC presidency, had been "apprehensive" about making moves beyond the agreement to enforce the trade embargo on Iraq.

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KUWAIT

Embassy refuge for Britons as more are rounded up

By MICHAEL KNIFE AND ANDREW MCEWEN

IRAQ has rounded up a further 82 Britons in Kuwait, in addition to 41 at the weekend, bringing the total to more than 120.

British diplomats have discovered that 48 of them are being held in two civilian buildings, but are unsure of the whereabouts of the others. Iraq has said they will be sent to factories and other strategic places for use as a human shield to deter attack.

Between 65 and 70 Britons in Iraq have taken refuge in the embassy in Baghdad. Others are not being encouraged to enter because of the risk that the Iraqi authorities might take some kind of action against the embassy. But there are thought to be 500 Britons in Iraq, and any who go to the embassy will not be turned away. The US embassy has also become a refuge for its citizens.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that Harold Walker, the British ambassador, was dealing with the situation as best he could. Mr Hurd and Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, attended a special meeting at Downing Street chaired by Margaret Thatcher. He said the Iraqis were moving British citizens around and using them as shields.

"We have taken every opportunity over the weekend, in public and private, to point out to the Iraqis that this behaviour is illegal and repulsive," he said.

Britain and the US were trying yesterday to persuade the Soviet Union to agree to a Security Council resolution under article 42 of the UN Charter. This would authorise the use of force to prevent breaches of the security council's trade sanctions against Iraq. Moscow has said that it would countenance the use of force only if the security council passed such a resolution. But the resolution cannot be passed without Moscow's acquiescence as it has a veto. Its position remained somewhat ambiguous yesterday.

Apart from the security council, the problem has been tackled from other directions. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, has sent his *chef de cabinet* to Baghdad.

William Waldegrave, minister of state at the Foreign Office, is to discuss the matter with officials of the International Red Cross in Geneva. Mr Hurd said it would also be raised today at meetings of the Western European Union and the European Community foreign ministers.

He would try to ensure that the solidarity of the European Community over the plight of the foreign nationals - which had been very good until now - would be maintained. In the light of the Iraqi deadline for the closure of foreign embassies in Kuwait by Friday, the twelve had some difficult decisions to take. Michael Weston, the ambassador, and his two diplomats have been told to stay as long as they can. "We will seek to make sure we have people in Kuwait able to keep in touch with our community there for as long as is physically possible."

Mr Hurd believed the Western European Union meeting would be a successful attempt to bring together under the cover of the WEU all the different contributions members had pledged. But military forces would stay under their national commands, there being no need for a joint command. Effective co-ordination of the WEU's efforts and

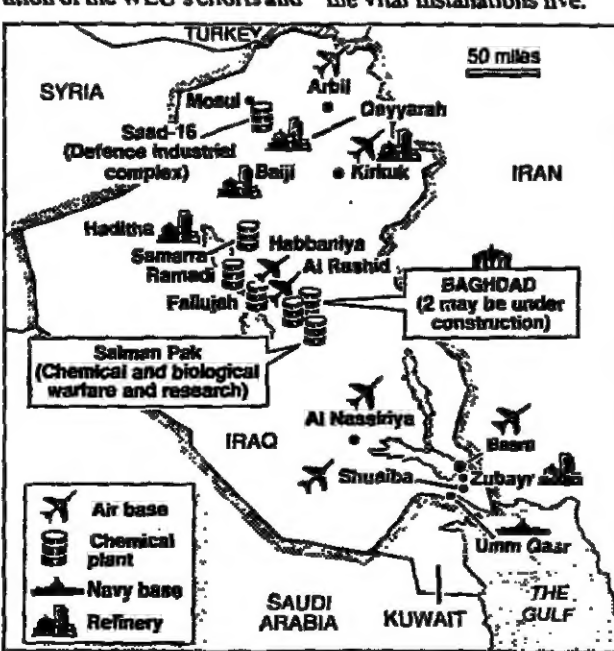
those of the US, Australia, Canada and others had to be worked out. Asked if Britain was opposed to a military solution, Mr Hurd made it clear that deterrence continued to be the US-British objective.

"I believe we lived through a very dangerous few days when there was a real prospect of an Iraqi attack on Saudi Arabia," he said. "I hope that has been deterred, but we cannot be sure when we are dealing with someone like Saddam Hussein."

"That was the reason why we moved so quickly and why, alongside the US, we have sent our aircraft up front. We may have passed that moment of immediate danger but that deterrent needs to remain in place and so do the forces needed to implement the security council embargo against Iraq."

● Nicosia: Groups of Westerners have been lodged with Iraqi families at vital targets in Baghdad, according to an Arab journalist in close contact with Iraq (Michael Theodoridis writes).

Westerners being used as a human shield were not kept separately under lock and key, but in heavily guarded compounds where Iraqis running the vital installations live.



Strategic installations in Iraq where President Saddam has threatened to place Western hostages



On home ground: An oil worker giving the thumbs-up sign on arrival in Moscow from Kuwait yesterday. He was among 134 Soviet workers' families flown out by Aeroflot

THE RETURNEES

Penniless escapers 'receive little financial sympathy'

By RAY CLANCY

BANKS and building societies are being unsympathetic towards Britons who have arrived home penniless after escaping from Kuwait and Iraq, it was claimed yesterday.

Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood, Bristol, who started the Gulf Support Group help-line for the families of Britons trapped in the conflict area, said he was appalled by the treatment many people had received.

"There is evidence that banks and building societies are treating people as if they have just driven up in their car from their house in the suburbs, and not as hostages who have been imprisoned for two weeks, escaped across the desert, and arrived home penniless having left all their possessions behind," he said.

Mr Hayward said those who had made the daring trip were special cases and had to be treated as such. They needed more time than usual to deal with financial problems, and some had no idea when they would be able to start earning again or if they would be able to salvage anything.

"These people are facing

financial ruin. Many of them were on fixed contracts with hospitals or schools and have not received any wages since the Iraqis occupied Kuwait. They have gone through considerable trauma, yet when they try to sort out their financial problems they are treated unsympathetically."

Joanne Copley, whose sister Jane was on the British Airways flight which was trapped at the airport in Kuwait, said: "There is a misapprehension that Britons working and living in Kuwait earn large amounts of money and are very rich. This is just not the case. Some have arrived with just £10 in their pockets and many are nurses and teachers earning ordinary wages. It is a disgrace the way they are being treated when they arrive home."

Miss Copley, who also started a help-line, has now joined forces with Mr Hayward and they have details of about 2,000 people, half the number of Britons thought to be trapped in Kuwait and Iraq. Children are among those trapped, but the group does not believe there are a

large number. The help-line is keeping closely in touch with the department of social security, so that people with financial problems can get the advice they need.

It is not just escapers who are facing money problems, but wives whose Kuwaiti husbands are stuck in the country and who as a result have no income.

The families of those who are trapped have become increasingly anxious. "People are being surprisingly stoic. They are naturally getting more and more anxious, but the community spirit, with neighbours helping families who are worried and upset, is amazing," said Mr Hayward.

One woman telephoned the help-line in a very distressed state because her daughter, trapped in Kuwait, is due to give birth soon.

"She was very worried and wanted to know if the reports that babies could be denied food was true. We tried to reassure her as much as we could," said Mr Hayward.

● The Gulf Support Group can be contacted on 071 430 9920/9921/2506/2562.

UNITED NATIONS

Race to win approval for action by warships

From JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States were pushing yesterday to convene the United Nations Security Council to give UN approval to naval action in the Gulf before American warships stop Iraqi tankers, diplomatic sources said.

The five permanent council members - Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States - met yesterday morning after a series of closed-door sessions over the weekend to draft the plan.

American officials indicated that the US Navy was waiting for UN action before stopping two tankers which ignored warning shots across their bows on Saturday.

A formal meeting of the council was hoped for late yesterday or today, diplomats said. "The Americans are running out of time," said one Western diplomat. "They have a ship to stop within 24 hours." Britain and the United States, reluctant to place their forces under UN command, appeared to be seeking a United Nations resolution along the lines of that which authorised Britain to stop tankers carrying oil to Rhodesia in 1966.

Diplomatic sources said the draft under consideration yesterday called in general terms on members of the United Nations to take action to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq. "It will not be a measure under article 42," said another Western diplomat. "It will be a recourse to chapter VII of the charter." Chapter VII is the section of the UN Charter that deals with "action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression."

France gave added impetus to the move to obtain a UN umbrella for naval action in the Gulf by changing its instructions to its warships in the area. Although the exact terms of the new orders were a military secret, diplomatic sources said that they were authorised to take "measures of constraint" to enforce the UN embargo.

Military sources said the new orders allowed French naval ships to stop suspicious cargo vessels and fire warning shots, but said presidential authorisation was needed before the navy could attack a suspect ship.

Moscow finds itself in the difficult position of having taken the lead in calling for a UN command for the navies in the Gulf, and now facing a resolution falling short of establishing a formal United Nations force to impose a UN-mandated blockade.

But it is the Chinese who have expressed the most opposition among the five powers. Ye Mengxia, the Chinese representative, said: "We are deeply disturbed by the mounting tension in the Gulf region, and it is our belief that military involvement by the big powers is not conducive to the settlement of the present crisis."

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, remains optimistic about the chances of a peaceful settlement. "Not everything that is explosive actually blows up," he told reporters on Sunday in Chile on the second stage of his Latin American tour.

A MAJOR NEW BOOK
ON THE
ARAB GULF
After the War:
Iraq, Iran and
the Arab Gulf

edited by
Charles Davies
Centre for Arab Gulf Studies
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Foreword by
Sir Anthony Parsons

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Bush increasingly bunkered by the holiday that must go on

From SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

AS IRAQ and the United States move nearer towards outright combat, President Bush looks increasingly like a hostage to his loudly proclaimed holiday plans.

A self-avowed "work hard, play hard" kind of guy, Mr Bush left Washington 10 days ago for a three-week stay at his family estate on the coast of New England, confident that he could stay abreast of an international crisis in between rounds of golf and fishing trips.

For a while, everything looked fine. A smiling Mr Bush received telephone calls from his motorised golf buggy and chatted freely with reporters about the latest developments in the Gulf as he officially

unwound. That, however, was before President Saddam Hussein began rounding up foreigners, including 3,000 Americans.

Now the signs from Kennebunkport, Maine, are that the president's holiday is turning sour. Some of his advisers are wondering how long he can maintain the image of a caring leader from afar as American television news programmes juxtapose pictures of US troops battling 120°F temperatures in Saudi Arabia with footage of Mr Bush teeing off on Cape Arundel golf course.

More significantly, the mounting tension between Washington and Baghdad appears to be taking a toll on Mr Bush himself. In past days, he has grown uncharacteristically testy with his regular entourage of

journalists, snapping from the golf course on Sunday that he does not like "taking questions on serious matters on my vacation."

Only a week earlier, he helped reporters by calling from his cellular phone during a round of golf to find out for them whether reports of the shooting-down of an Iraqi aircraft in the Gulf were true.

Other tell-tale signs of his degenerating humour, according to Bush body-language and behaviour experts, include ever-frantic rounds of golf in blinding rain and a refusal to stop for his usual chat with the minister of his local church after a Sunday service. He ignored reporters and strode to his car.

But, as alarm spreads about the fate of Americans trapped in Kuwait, Mr Bush finds himself the

victim of his own efforts to exude calm. Some of his advisers may privately wish he would return to Washington to quell growing criticism that his holiday routine looks frivolous, but they know that this is unlikely to happen.

The White House made such a fuss about Mr Bush's cast-iron holiday plans that any about-turn could unwittingly signal a mood of panic within the administration. "What you don't want to do is appear to be held hostage in the White House to events," Mr Bush declared before he left the capital, anxious to contrast himself with former Democratic president Jimmy Carter, who hardly left Washington during the Iranian hostage crisis.

Mr Bush's press secretary, Mar-

lin Fitzwater, reiterated this line at the weekend as the president broke his holiday, for the second time in a week, to return briefly to Washington for dinner with his national security specialists. Yesterday, he forged ahead with a "business as usual" image by travelling to Baltimore to address a convention of retired servicemen. Later, he attended a political fund-raising event in Rhode Island before travelling back to Maine.

Publicly, White House staffers have sought to play down the image of Mr Bush at play as discomfiting only to the American media. As the military build-up continues, there are signs that other Americans, too, are growing impatient with Mr Bush's sang-froid despite their initial overwhelming

support for his handling of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Gradually, the names of the Americans held against their will in Kuwait and Baghdad have started to seep out as their relatives turn to the American media to make known their plight. Yesterday, USA Today, the country's largest-circulation newspaper, ran an emotional front-page interview with the wife of a Texas oil worker who is among the detained Americans.

President Bush himself risked fuelling concern about the fate of those held when he described them as "hostages" for the first time. In the view of many, however, nothing short of a full-scale emergency will bring Mr Bush permanently back to the White House before the end of his holiday on September 3.

ostages

الجزيرة

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST



An F117A stealth jet fighter using its brake-parachute while landing at Langley air force base in Virginia yesterday. One of 22 flown from its home base in Nevada, it was due to fly on to the Middle East

BAGHDAD STRENGTH

US searching for past weaknesses in Iraq's defences

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

STUDYING the military options for dealing with the Iraqis, the Americans are reported to be in a resolute mood to teach President Saddam Hussein a lesson. But in preparing for war with Iraq, what lessons have already been learnt about Iraqi military capabilities? Is this one million-strong army as formidable as it sounds?

According to the latest intelligence assessment, there are 200,000 Iraqi troops and more than 1,000 tanks on the Saudi border. But they have adopted a position which became all too familiar during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. Apart from the armoured thrust into Iran at the beginning of the war in 1980 and a second offensive towards the end when Iraqi forces advanced 450 miles across the Iranian border, Iraq spent most of the war waiting for the enemy to attack, sitting behind vast defensive structures. Even its initial assault ran out of steam after less than two weeks.

Today, following their rapid but relatively unopposed invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi forces have returned to their strategy of building big defences and parking their tanks and artillery behind them. In response to the dispatch of US forces to Saudi Arabia, Iraq's military occupation force in Kuwait has intensified construction of a strong defensive line of earth barriers and anti-aircraft batteries. The earthen barricades are around Kuwait City and in the desert south-west of the capital and also

around the international airport.

Don Kerr, of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said: "Sitting behind vast defensive structures, waiting for an attack seems to suit their collective personality."

During the war with Iraq, Iran was outnumbered five to one in tanks, nine to one in heavy artillery and six to one in combat aircraft and was nearly defenceless in the face of Iraq's willingness to use chemical weapons. Iraq should have won, but its failure to achieve any significant gains in eight years should provide the American military planners with confidence that the Iraqi superiority in manpower and armour does not add to be the crucial factor in deciding what action to take.

However, the Iraqi military, and in particular the highly trained Republican Guard, learned during the latter stages of the war with Iran the art of manoeuvring at speed. The American assessment is that, if President Saddam decided to order his seven Republican Guard divisions in Kuwait to attack Saudi Arabia, they would be capable of moving quickly at short notice. They are apparently well stocked with equipment, spare parts, food and water. Their supplies are being brought down the main road from Basra.

But can they fight a sustained battle? The invasion of Kuwait took time to 12 hours. In the war with Iran, they never fought a sustained battle

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EMIRATES

Sheikhs coaxed to provide logistical support

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN ABU DHABI

OPERATION Desert Shield took on a larger dimension yesterday with a formal agreement to turn the United Arab Emirates into a logistics base for American and Arab troops facing the Iraqi army. At least 16 US Air Force cargo planes are expected to operate from bases in the oil-rich sheikhdoms, ferrying supplies to 90,000 US soldiers in or on their way to Saudi Arabia.

The decision crowned a four-day Gulf tour by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, who hailed the agreement as an important demonstration of international co-operation against Iraq. It also formalised the alleged presence of US special forces in Bahrain, and that of the KC135 refuelling tanker aircraft sent earlier this month on an open-ended basis.

Mr Cheney was in Saudi Arabia last night, reportedly discussing the sale of more F15 fighters to Riyadh as part of Washington's efforts to strengthen the kingdom's military power. Details, however, were not known.

Yesterday five US Air Force C130 cargo transports were said to be operating from al-Batin airbase in the emirates and US officials were quoted as saying that 11 more aircraft were on their way. Reporters travelling with Mr Cheney said they saw American airmen in a hangar adorned with a cardboard sign reading "Welcome to AL-310 TAW. No problem."

The militarisation of the UAE against Iraq marks a significant departure of its cautious approach towards the confrontation and reflected America's power of persuasion in its campaign to enlist as many states as possible against Baghdad. Mr Cheney reminded his hosts that Iraq, with forces entrenched about 200 miles to the north, had threatened the emirates, with the same vigour with which it warned Kuwait months before the invasion, that overproduction of oil would not go unpunished.

Mr Cheney did not disclose the size of the US force to be deployed in the emirates, nor did he say how long American troops would stay. He was, however, evidently satisfied with his mission. After a meeting with President al-Nahayan, Mr Cheney told reporters: "I am especially pleased that US forces are among those accepted by the UAE in defence of the Gulf."

The agreement actively involves the emirates as the result of at least two unprecedented moves. Mr Cheney was the most senior US official yet to visit the emirates, and it is the first time that the governments of the seven city-states of the southern Gulf had called so openly for foreign military intervention.

MOSCOW

Kremlin edges closer to sending ground troops

By OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE question of Soviet ground troops being deployed to the Middle East against Iraq can no longer be ruled out. The possibility has already been discussed between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, apparently on the basis that Soviet troops would come under the general command of the Americans.

Although there would seem to be little likelihood of any Soviet troop involvement in the short term, it might be plausible in the longer term, if the confrontation between the Iraqis and Americans developed into a lengthy stalemate.

It can have been no coincidence that so much publicity was given last week to a Soviet military exercise in Odessa. President Gorbachev, on holiday on the Black Sea, made a point of addressing the troops.

The relevance of last week's exercise was that, if Soviet troops are to be dispatched to the Middle East, it is probable that naval infantry forces — the equivalent of marines — and airborne units, based in the Odessa military district, would be the first to go

because of their relative proximity to the region.

In last week's exercise, both naval infantry and airborne forces took part in a rapid deployment scenario. The Soviet naval infantry have no combat experience. They were not used in Afghanistan. But they and airborne forces would be the obvious choice if Moscow decided to send troops to the Middle East.

Richard Waff, editor of *Jane's Soviet High Command*, said yesterday that the naval infantry units attached to all four Soviet fleets consisted of a total of 80,000-100,000 men. This compares with 200,000 American marines.

Mr Waff said that there would be almost impenetrable command and control difficulties if Soviet and American troops fought together. He said: "One possibility would be for Soviet forces to operate from Syria, where there is a lot of Soviet equipment."

ISRAEL

Political storm on issue of gas masks

From A CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM

A CALL by Israel's foreign minister, David Levy, for the immediate distribution of gas masks to the public is creating a political storm in Israel.

Mr Levy said at the weekend that immediate distribution in the face of Iraqi threats against the Jewish state was critical for public safety. "We can no longer postpone this action in the face of the unknown," he said.

The position puts him at odds with the defence minister, Moshe Arens, who has decided that distribution of masks could create a public panic here and be misread in Baghdad as a sign that Israel was preparing for an aggressive act.

The disagreement, which burst into newspaper headlines yesterday, indicates heightened tension between Mr Levy and Mr Arens, who are rivals in the right-wing Likud bloc and both hopeful future candidates for prime minister.

The office of the current prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, stepped in quickly to end the public debate. "The prime minister has asked his ministers not to discuss the issue publicly any more," Avi Pazner, one of Mr Shamir's aides, said.

An official with the civil defence, who asked not to be identified, said he believed Mr Levy's call would inflame the public rather than calm it. "We are prepared to distribute masks when the time is right," the civil defence official said. "But now, when there is no direct threat, we fear it could create panic." He said his agency also worried that the masks might not be properly maintained over long periods of time.

Many Israelis are not waiting for the government to act. Traders in Tel Aviv report brisk sales of gas masks, plastic ponchos, rubber boots and gloves.

Newspapers have run full-page "how to" guides for protection against gas attacks. Their suggestions that people be prepared with tape to seal windows and baking soda to make their clothes more gas-resistant have resulted in runs on tape and soda in shops.

AMMAN

Parade of old fears rekindles spirit of Arab unity

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

"I and my brother against my cousin, and I and my cousin against the stranger."

THAT centuries-old Arabic saying has been dusted down since the Gulf confrontation, both to explain how former opponents have united in a new wave of Arab nationalism, and to express the hope that others will join a pro-Iraqi alliance if the Iraqis and Americans ever become embroiled in war.

The revival of Arab nationalism has been most pronounced in the formerly pro-Western kingdom of Jordan, where yesterday a *de facto* coalition of left-wingers, nationalists, and the Muslim Brotherhood was unveiled as part of a popular campaign to resist the foreign presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

The new Jordanian National Front in the 80-seat lower house reflected a linking of formerly hostile forces (notably Islamists and secularists) in a number of Arab League states, including Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia, Mauritania and Somalia.

All the alliances have come together to express backing for President Saddam Hussein. They have been joined by Palestinian splinter groups and the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation whose leader, Yasser Arafat, has publicly hitched the Palestinian cause to Iraq.

The tide of pan-Arab nationalism unleashed by President Saddam is being opposed by 12 members of the Arab League, led by Egypt, whose first president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, was the last leader to attract such wide pan-Arab support.

A Muslim Brotherhood official said yesterday: "Regardless of our opinion of Saddam Hussein, King Fahd's invitation of American troops to the holy land was totally unacceptable. Jerusalem was already under Israeli occupation and now the two most important Islamic shrines (Mecca and Medina) left were under American control."

President Saddam has worked effectively to strengthen the Islamic content in his struggle against the US. He has also exploited anti-Americanism, resentment between the oil-rich Arab states and their poorer brethren, and the bogey of Israel.

The sudden reversal of tensions between Islamists and secularists in the pro-Iraqi states is seen as a result of the populist support for Iraq's stand. As yet, this has had little effect in Egypt or Syria.

The Islamic fundamentalists did not previously have high regard for Iraq because it was known as a state where wine and women were freely available — Kuwaitis were some of the biggest spenders in Iraqi brothels.

But that initial distaste appears to have been overtaken in what many commentators in Jordan believe may eventually end as a struggle pitting the Islamic nations against the West, led by the United States.

The main unifying factor has been a conviction that the US has employed double standards in its attitude to Israel and Iraq. Arabs from all classes in Jordan draw bitter comparisons with what they cite as Washington's slowness to react to Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, compared with the speed of its mobilisation over Kuwait.

The Palestinians combine their opposition to what they term "American hypocrisy" with an impassioned belief that President Saddam is the only Arab strongman prepared to stand up for their cause. Few contemplate how far it could be set back if he is defeated in a military struggle.

PLO SPLIT

Arafat struggles to find a diplomatic solution

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE consequences of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait may be disastrous economically, politically and strategically for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, but most Palestinians believe that Yasser Arafat could only side with President Saddam Hussein against the United States.

While the PLO has not condoned the invasion, it has yet to condemn it. In the West this has been seen as a gross miscalculation by one of the Middle East's great survivors: he has backed a certain loser.

A rash peace plan in the early days of the crisis that proposed Iraq's troops could be brought out of Kuwait discredited not only later ones but also Mr Arafat's attempts to present himself as an impartial mediator.

Since then statements by PLO officials have been seen in the West as contradictory, evasive and ambiguous, designed to give Mr Arafat a chance to abandon the sinking ship and row to pro-Western shores. Most Palestinian commentators believe he will not abandon ship.

Mr Arafat was yesterday trying to find a diplomatic breakthrough that could end the problem and reverse the PLO's fortunes. His plan, in conjunction with North African leaders, calls for Arab forces to oversee an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and then to guarantee the security of neighbouring countries. The plan has led to a split in PLO ranks with some claiming that Mr Arafat's frantic shuttle diplomacy is embarrassing because war is inevitable.

Economically, the Palestinians stand to lose vast sums of aid from their Gulf patrons while Gulf-based Palestinians fear their jobs may be endangered or the transfer of their remittances banned. The total value of remittances sent to the occupied territories is

estimated at up to \$30 million (£26 million) a month.

Politically, the Gulf tension has split Arab ranks, sidelined the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and lost Mr Arafat his nurtured image of moderation in Western eyes.

Strategically, as most Palestinians see it, the US is determined to topple President Saddam, the first Arab leader who was willing to stand up to Israel. Israeli right-wingers may push even harder to turn Jordan into Palestine. Many Palestinians believe the US wanted a chance to smash Iraq's power base for Israel's sake, but if any officials were angered that President Saddam walked straight into the trap, none has expressed it.

Palestinian commentators argue that Mr Arafat could not stand against the tide of popular Palestinian support for Iraq while his leadership was already being challenged

by more radical elements inside and outside the PLO. Nor would he be willing to incur the wrath of the Iraqi leader. Key PLO institutions, including its military headquarters and 5,000 guerrillas, have remained in Baghdad since they were driven out of Lebanon by Israel's invasion in 1982.

Palestinian officials maintain their position on the dilemma has been misrepresented by the Western media: their support for Iraq does not mean they backed the Kuwait invasion.

The PLO's second-in-command, Abu Iyad, said the PLO was doing its best to find an Arab solution to an Arab problem. Palestinian analysts argue that the way Egypt and the PLO lined up after the emergency was a logical extension of what came before. Washington was to blame for pushing the organisation firmly into Iraq's camp.

Mr Cheney did not disclose the size of the US force to be deployed in the emirates, nor did he say how long American troops would stay. He was, however, evidently satisfied with his mission. After a meeting with President al-Nahayan, Mr Cheney told reporters: "I am especially pleased that US forces are among those accepted by the UAE in defence of the Gulf."

The agreement actively involves the emirates as the result of at least two unprecedented moves. Mr Cheney was the most senior US official yet to visit the emirates, and it is the first time that the governments of the seven city-states of the southern Gulf had called so openly for foreign military intervention.



United States marine recruits trying on gas masks during basic training at the Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot in South Carolina recently

CAIRO

Egyptian men line up to 'bring down the dictator in Baghdad'

From RICHARD OWEN IN CAIRO

IN A DUSTY tree-lined street yesterday, hundreds of Egyptians gathered outside the Saudi embassy in Cairo, a white three-storey building near the Nile. By noon, the numbers had swelled to about a thousand.

They were not there to support President Saddam Hussein or burn American and British flags, but to sign up as volunteers to fight Iraq and "bring down the dictator in Baghdad", as one put it.

Since the Arab League summit in Cairo voted 12-4 ten days ago to send Arab troops to help defend Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak has won overwhelming support among Egyptians for his stand. Even the opposition Muslim

Brotherhood has bowed to the public mood, deploring "foreign intervention" but condemning Iraq's actions.

Despite the influence of Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt, President Saddam's appeal to Muslims to rise up against their governments has fallen on deaf ears here. Yesterday Sheikh Hamed Abul Nasser, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, agreed to meet Nabil Negem, the Iraqi ambassador to Cairo. However, to the obvious chagrin of Iraqi diplomats, he emerged still calling for Iraqi forces to leave Kuwait.

Yesterday the Egyptian press could hardly conceal its glee at the prospect of Western military action. The opposition newspaper *al-Wafd* said that by using foreigners as hostages and threatening to use

poison gas, President Saddam had played his only remaining cards. "All that remains is his execution."

Such anti-Iraqi zeal was shared yesterday by the volunteers outside the Saudi embassy and at the United Arab Emirates embassy nearby. "We have to protect the holy places of Islam in Saudi Arabia," one man said, as he bent over a blisteringly hot car bonnet to fill in his application form.

Most Egyptians echo the view of the Mubarak government that Arabs must protect Mecca, and few seem to accept President Saddam's argument that the real conflict is between Islam and the West and that the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia is itself a desecration of Muslim sites.

Egyptians have no lack of reasons for opposing the Saddam

regime. Egyptian workers in Iraq had been systematically maltreated long before the current confrontation.

Egypt, as the most populous Arab state, greatly resents President Saddam's attempts to pose as leader of the entire Arab "nation". Official Egyptian anger with Baghdad is fuelled by the fact that the Iraqi leader's actions, and the support he has received from the Palestine Liberation Organisation, have undermined years of diplomatic efforts by Egypt to bring about Arab-Israeli peace talks.

There is, however, an economic cost involved in Cairo's firm stand, and Egyptian officials are clearly worried. A further contingent of Egyptian troops arrived in Saudi Arabia at the weekend. Although Cairo expects Wash-

ington to help pay for the Egyptian war effort — Egypt already receives \$2.5 billion (£1.19 billion) in US aid annually — Egyptians will undoubtedly have to shoulder some of the burden. The Egyptian economy, moreover, will suffer further from a sudden drop in the income normally derived from Egyptian migrant workers in Iraq and the Gulf region.

Whether the conflict in the Gulf drags on or is ended by military action, President Saddam can be expected to step up his efforts to break the alliance ranged against him, and to bring down the Mubarak government. The so-called "Voice of Arab Egypt" radio station, based in Iraq, is calling on Egyptians to turn against the West, rise up against President Mubarak, and attack "imperialist targets".



Mubarak widely backed for his anti-Iraqi stance

Court reform plans mean unfair sentencing, lawyers say

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MANY criminals could be unfairly sentenced under government plans to allow courts to impose unusually tough punishments on persistent violent and sexual offenders, lawyers and penal reformers said yesterday.

The Law Society and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) said that unless ministers defined this category of offender, courts were likely to use the power to impose unjustly long sentences.

However, the plans, which are part of a package of criminal justice proposals to be put to Parliament in the autumn, were welcomed by the Magistrates' Association and the Bar Association which said that they were necessary to protect the public from serious harm.

A keystone of the proposals, which ministers hope will pave the way for a further fall in the prison population, is that courts should base sentencing more closely on the offence committed and pay less attention, where recidivists are involved, to previous criminal records.

The white paper *Crime, Justice and*

Protecting the Public says, however, that the "proportionality" rule should be waived where persistent violent and sexual offenders are concerned. In practice, this would mean that such offenders would attract nearer the maximum penalty for any offence.

The proposals are, in the main, liberal. The exception clause is widely seen as an attempt by the government to provide a sweetener to the right wing in the Conservative party and to those voters who regard sentencing policy as too lenient.

Paul Cavadino of Nacro said that

ministers were mistaken if they felt that the public would welcome a move which offended the fundamental principle that punishment should match the crime. "It will be widely seen as unfair that someone who has committed a minor offence is punished more severely than because of what they have done but because of someone's guess of the likelihood of them reoffending."

The Law Society said that ministers needed also to stipulate in more detail the kind of previous criminal record which would allow courts to depart from the proposed sentencing norms. Stephen

Ridley, secretary of the society's criminal law committee, said that if the provision was framed too loosely it would be used by judges as a way of getting round the new sentencing rules. Judges, he added, were more pro-secutively orientated than the government would like.

Mr Ridley said that he believed that the clause, which if strictly applied would apply to only a very small number of offenders, had been devised to win over right-wing Tories to the government's putative "punishment in the community" regime. John Hosking,

chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said that the initiative, highlighted by John Patten, the Home Office minister of state, over the weekend, was welcome because it strengthened the deterrent impact of sentencing.

"One of the most frustrating things for both magistrates and the public is to see the same people constantly coming up before the courts, apparently undeterred by previous sentences," Mr Hosking said.

Leading article, page 9

Labour says capping brings £36m schools cuts

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

EDUCATION budgets have been cut by a total of more than £36 million in the 17 local authorities charge-capped by the government, the Labour party claimed yesterday.

Measures taken by some councils to stay within spending limits have included the closure of a music service and the abolition of swimming lessons for primary children. Most authorities believe that their cuts will restrict the ability of schools to teach the national curriculum.

Labour's survey is the first to examine the impact on education of charge-capping in detail. Although the authorities' attempts to spread the cuts between services has kept the average reduction in education spending to less than 1 per cent of their education budgets, Derek Fatchett, the party's education spokesman, said that every area of the service would be damaged.

He added that unless government policy changed, the authorities would almost certainly have to make teachers redundant next year. Islington is drawing up plans for cuts four times as great as the present economies, which total more than £1 million, while Doncaster's projected cuts of £4 million could mean

the loss of up to 300 teaching jobs, he said. Only Camden, of the authorities charge-capped this year, has been able to protect education completely.

The council has done that by switching funds earmarked for the repayment of capital debt. Most of the other authorities have used their reserves to reduce the impact of the cuts, but may be unable to do so next year.

Mr Fatchett said that further and adult education, youth services and other non-statutory services were suffering most. Avon and Derbyshire had reduced further education budgets by about £1 million and a new tertiary college at Barnsley, South Yorkshire, had lost £500,000 of its funding before it opened.

The other danger area, according to the Labour survey, was repairs and maintenance. Some authorities had pared spending to the point where they would be in serious trouble if any of their schools needed major structural repairs.

The education department said, however, that most authorities had managed to plan their education services without setting overall budgets that were so excessive as to need capping.

Chris Patten, the environment secretary, yesterday asked the High Court to quash a decision by Haringey council, north London, to set a new community charge of £536 instead of the £508 demanded by the government.

The authority has said that it could not reduce the charge by the required amount because the collection rate was lower than expected, and it has defied government orders to cut its poll tax from £572 per head to £508.

David Keene, QC, counsel for Mr Patten, said that the council's resetting of the charge on the basis of 10 per cent non-payment rather than its original estimate of 5 per cent was unlawful and beyond its powers. He said that the case concerned how far the budget reductions ordered by the minister were to be carried through into lower community charges. The outcome of the case was of importance to all local authorities and chargepayers in England and Wales, Mr Keene said.

Haringey's original budget calculation for the financial year beginning in April was £216.5 million. That was capped by £10 million to £206.5 million, which led to the council setting its new rate in July. Mr Patten has said that Haringey failed to comply with the provisions of the 1988 Local Government Finance Act, which required that a council, when setting a substitute community charge, should use the estimate of the default rate made when the community charge was originally set.

Temporary injunctions preventing Haringey from issuing new poll tax demands will stay in force until the end of the hearing. Robert Carnwath, QC, counsel for Haringey, said that the minister's view of the provisions of the Act was blinkered and too narrow. There was no suggestion that the council's default estimate of 10 per cent was over-optimistic or unreasonable, he said.

The hearing will continue today.

Protester asks for Swedish asylum

A MAN aged 70 has applied for political asylum in Sweden after his poll tax bill was increased by £233.

Ken King, of Long Eaton, near Nottingham, made the written approach to Sweden's Ambassador in London following the poll tax reassessment by Erewash Borough council, which will effectively treble his payments.

"I don't think any other government would see people squeezed and squeezed as they are here," Mr King said. "If they are prepared to accept me in Sweden I will go."

In a separate case, an 89-year-old war veteran and his wife were ordered to pay their £800 poll tax bill by Newbury magistrates yesterday. Richard McMillan, of The Common, Frilsham, Berkshire, had returned his OBE medal to Buckingham Palace in disgust at a poll tax double his former rates bill.

Mr McMillan, supported by around 20 protesters, was the first of 1,621 people summoned to appear before Newbury magistrates for failure to pay the charge. They imposed a liability order for his poll tax of £382.18 and £12 costs. A similar order was made against his wife Joan, aged 72.

After the hearing, Mr McMillan said: "What I would like to do now is take the money to the prison cell but my wife does not like sleeping on bare boards on the floor."

● National anti-poll tax campaigners joined a fight by flat owner Jonathan Davies to help to keep bailiffs out of his home in Wandsworth, south London, yesterday (Lin Jenkins writes).

Magistrates had last month granted a liability order on Mr Davies for non-payment of the poll tax. He has still not paid and the bailiffs had indicated that they would take action on or after August 20.

All day, campaign members with walkie-talkies checked vehicle registration numbers for those allegedly belonging to the bailiffs. They also blocked the way to the flat but the bailiffs did not show up.

Sir Paul Beresford, leader of Wandsworth Council, insisted he would not bow to the pressure of anti-poll tax campaigners and that the council was determined to collect the charge, using bailiffs if necessary, from Mr Davies and more than 100 other Wandsworth residents for whom liability orders had been granted.



Richard Harris collecting money yesterday to try to save the Young Vic from closure

Theatres rally round to save Young Vic

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THEATRES and actors in London's West End are rallying round to help the Young Vic to raise £100,000 to avoid closing at the end of next month. Richard Harris, who is playing the leading role in *Henry VI* at Wyndham's Theatre, made the first of a series of stage appeals last night in the "bucket project" to help the Young Vic theatre to raise the money it needs.

Buckets were rattled in the foyer at the end of the performance to encourage donations from the departing audience. The company of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* at the Ambassadors is to follow suit as are other West End and fringe companies.

Since the Save the Young Vic Campaign was launched on August 12, £74,000 has been raised towards the target needed to carry out essential renovations to qualify for a theatre licence. An anonymous donation of £25,000 arrived last weekend.

Benefit performances are being given by the Royal Shakespeare Company (*of Pericles*), the company of *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune, and at the Young Vic itself its present production of Arthur Miller's *The Man Who Had All the Luck*.

The Young Vic has accumulated a deficit of £220,000, and after its £100,000 target is reached another £250,000 will have to be raised to carry out further restoration of the building.

Squabbles put Tory chief's future in doubt

By KERRY GILL

MICHAEL Forsyth, chairman of the Scottish Conservative party, will return from holiday in Italy at the end of the month to face his biggest political challenge. His opponents will spend the autumn trying to persuade the prime minister that it is time for him to be relieved of his post.

Discontent among mainstream Tories over Mr Forsyth's style of leadership has grown in the three weeks since Douglas Young, his most senior official at the party's Edinburgh headquarters, resigned.

The resignation is believed to have been the culmination of disputes between supporters of Mr Forsyth and Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, that caused Mr Young, director of campaigns and operations, to leave his £50,000 a year job after eight months.

Arthur Bell, chairman of the Scottish Tory Reform Group, said: "There are now serious problems with the management of the party. These have to be looked at and resolved. One has to carry on questioning who is running central office, what is their experience and how many elections have they masterminded."

"We are going into the next general election fighting for our political life and this requires the most experienced and skilled organisation. It is up to Mr Forsyth to answer these questions."

In a reference to opposition

to Mr Forsyth, a senior Tory said: "We are firing off the odd bullets and we hope that some will find their mark. Over the coming months we will seek to persuade Mrs Thatcher that he should go. We will continue chipping away but, at the same time, we will be constructive in promoting our policies to the electorate."

Supporters of Mr Forsyth are keen to see the hatchet buried, nervous that the sniping will affect his position as party chairman. One said: "I believe the events in the Middle East have made the reality of a June election a possibility. We cannot afford the luxury of internal disruption."

"Both Michael and Malcolm are excellent men in their jobs and it is vital for them to be seen to get on together. It has been more a case of periodic irritation with each other than any deep-seated animosity."

Oil firms put petrol up by 3.2p

Three more of Britain's largest oil companies raised petrol prices by 3.2p a gallon last night as fears rose that motorists will suffer even bigger increases over the next few weeks (Kevin Eason writes).

Esso, BP and Texaco followed Shell's decision at the weekend to put up the price of four-star petrol to 217.8p a gallon. Unleaded fuel is now 204.1p. With more than 8,000 forecourts now charging record prices, other oil firms are expected to follow quickly.

Yesterday's decision is not, however, expected to be the last; Opec is in confusion and analysts are predicting that any fighting in the Gulf will push the cost of oil over \$30 (£15.80) a barrel.

The oil companies, which say they are reflecting petrol prices in Rotterdam that have risen by 39 per cent since July, believe they may have to put up pump prices again as uncertainty over the Middle East grows.

Ten arrests in £2m drug haul

Customs officials were yesterday questioning nine men and a woman at Torquay police station, after £2 million of cannabis resin was seized at a service station near Exeter.

Four of the group were arrested at Brixham, Devon, where 600 kilograms of the drug were brought ashore on Sunday from Good Hope, a trawler, Devon and Cornwall police said. The resin was transferred to a van. When the vehicle stopped at the Granada Services on the M5, five more people were arrested and a tenth person was arrested in the London area. It is believed that the cannabis came from Morocco.

Britons in lead

After three rounds of the Lloyds Bank Masters Chess Tournament at the Cumberland hotel in London, several British players share the lead. Murray Chandler, Glenn Flear, Mark Hebden and Mihai Suba have a 100 per cent score so far. Alex Wojtkiewicz, a Polish player, also has three points out of three. The event is the largest and most important open tournament to be held in the UK.

Brawl on ferry

A Dutchman with a broken jaw was flown to hospital by helicopter from a Channel ferry after a British stag party got out of hand. Police said that a fight broke out at about 3am on Sunday on the Olau Britannia which bound from Sheerness, Kent, to The Netherlands. The 38 Britons were met by police on their return to Britain. Four men held for questioning have been released on bail.

Hundreds of drug users get driving ban

SEVERAL hundred people each year are being banned from driving after being tested by doctors for drug-taking, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre said yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Dr John Irvine, head of the centre's medical advisory branch, said that the figure was "more than 100 and less than 1,000".

Drivers were called in for urine tests as a result of information passed to the centre by police and doctors but in a few cases anonymous information came from the public. He said: "The test is qualitative rather than quantitative in nature but drivers should realise that drugs like cannabis are hallucinogenic and can impair reflexes."

Under the Road Traffic Act, the Secretary of State for Transport has a duty to ensure that people holding licences are not a danger whilst driving.

The number of cases referred to the centre had increased in recent years as the dangers of drug-taking and excessive drinking to drivers had become more widely appreciated.

John Jolly, deputy director of Release, a government-funded voluntary organisation providing advice to drug misusers, said he unreservedly condemned people who drove while under the influence of drugs. Where a test was positive it did not, however, prove that the driver had been irresponsible.

"Someone who has smoked cannabis can turn in a positive sample up to 30 days after he has consumed the drug," he said.

Woodsmen losing squirrel battle

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Warde has given up planting sycamore, beech and oak in the 700 acres of woodland on the Squerres Court estate near Westham, Kent. His family, who have lived there for more than two centuries, are fighting a losing battle against a more recent arrival - the grey squirrel.

These days the only newly planted sycamores on the estate are self-sown ones, easily identifiable by dead leaves and bark-stripped stems. "People think grey squirrels are nice, cuddly creatures and that killing them is cruel, but they have made any sensible planting of broadleaf trees impossible," Mr Warde said.

The grey squirrel was introduced to Britain from North America at the start of the century. It has been vandalising trees for decades and has long been recognised by woodsmen as a pest. Controlling the bushy-tailed rodent has, however, taken on a new urgency.

The squirrels seem to be getting more numerous, partly it is thought because more have survived two consecutive mild winters. At the same time the government is encouraging planting of the kind of trees on which they most like to feed.

"If we do not quickly organise a proper squirrel control scheme, then all the new broadleaved forests we are trying so hard to develop could be wiped out," said Andrew Christie-Miller, chairman of Timber Growers United Kingdom, which represents private sector forestry. Ninety per cent of productive broadleaved

woodland is in private hands. Britain is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. The Countryside Commission last year announced a scheme to plant 12 forests of mixed conifer and broadleaved trees on the fringes of blighted industrial areas. The agriculture ministry is also paying farmers to grow trees rather than cereals, with a premium for such species as oak, beech and ash.

Broadleaved hardwoods are more vulnerable to squirrel attack than the conifers favoured by commercial forestry. Sycamore and beech are the squirrels' chief addiction, but they also like oak, larch, maple, sweet chestnut and horse chestnut. Trees are most at risk when they are between 10 and 40 years old.

"Fewer than 5 per cent of

trees are killed outright," said Harry Pepper, wildlife officer at the Forestry Commission's research station near Farnham, Surrey.

"That only happens if the squirrels ring-bark a tree by tearing off the bark all the way round the base of the trunk, cutting off the flow of sap to the leaves."

"More often the squirrels strip off bark higher up, which rots or becomes infected. Often the entire crown will die, disfiguring the tree and making it useless as timber. For some reason, possibly to do with sexual competition between young and old males, squirrels only behave in this way in May, June and July."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s the agriculture ministry paid a bounty of a shilling (later raised to two

shillings) a tail to anyone shooting or trapping grey squirrels. But this did little to keep numbers down.

Hoppers holding grain laced with rat poison are the most efficient way of controlling grey squirrels. The animal has to crawl up a small tunnel and push open a flap door to reach the bait. The difficulty has been to devise a way of allowing the grey squirrel in while keeping out other small mammals.

In North America, where it does not show the same hooligan tendencies, the grey squirrel is a delicacy, stuffed and roasted or in a stew flavoured with walnut catsup. This is a taste that has yet to catch on here, but the prospect of reducing squirrel numbers by eating them is not promising.



Up a tree: John Warde inspecting grey squirrel damage to a horse chestnut

TUC calls for 'green' shop stewards in the workplace

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Trades Union Congress yesterday envisaged an army of "green" shop stewards watching out for industrial pollution from the workplace when it called for the labour movement to have a leading role in environmental policy making.

The estimated 250,000 union health and safety representatives in factories and offices should have additional environmental responsibilities, said John Edmonds, chairman of the TUC's environmental action group, launching the group's report which is to be presented to the TUC congress next month. Unions should be closely involved with the growing management prac-

tice of environmental auditing, he said, pressing managements to carry out and publish such audits and taking part in the audits themselves.

If the report is accepted at the congress, Mr Edmonds said, the TUC would seek a meeting with Chris Patten, the environment secretary, and with the CBI, to call for the establishment of environmental auditing as a normal part of management practice, with audits published every year in the manner of financial accounts. If the voluntary approach failed, the TUC would press for legislation to bring them in, he said.

The TUC's attitude to the range of global environmental problems, from the greenhouse effect to acid rain, is also set out in the report, and

yesterday Mr Edmonds, and Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said they wanted union thinking to move on from "black and white attitudes" which sometimes saw the preservation of jobs in polluting industries, or the ending of pollution, as simple alternatives.

However, the report does not discuss the employment implications of its most ambitious policy, a call for UK emissions of carbon dioxide, the principal gas causing the greenhouse effect, to be stabilised at present levels by the year 2000, five years ahead of the government's own target. Many energy analysts believe that coal-fired power stations, which with motor vehicles are the principal carbon dioxide pro-

ducers, will have to be largely switched to gas fuelling if such a target is to be met, which implies cuts in miners' jobs. Mr Edmonds said, however, that the TUC believed the target could be met by energy efficiency and restricting vehicle emissions.

The report also avoids another question raised by the 2000 target, the possible role of nuclear power in future electricity generation, over which Mr Edmonds admitted that his action group, like the whole union movement, is split.

● New industrial pollution measures requiring the installation of costly "clean" manufacturing equipment is threatening the viability of hundreds of firms, the Engineering

Employers' Federation is warning the government (Kevin Eason writes). The federation, which represents almost 5,000 companies, will meet the pollution inspectorate next month to ask for assurances over the implementation of the measures in the forthcoming Environmental Protection Act.

The employers' organisation says that some companies will be faced with bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds to install equipment that complies with the regulations. It says that the main problem with early guidelines is that the environment department has considered only the technical solutions to the "greening" of industry, but not the economic implications.

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Drowned woman's husband a liar and cheat, coroner says

THE WIFE of a policeman who drowned in a jacuzzi while on holiday was probably unlawfully killed, a coroner said yesterday. He also described PC Alan Waldock, who has been cleared of her murder by a court, as a liar and a cheat.

Ian McCreath, the north Northumberland coroner, said that he rejected his story that his wife Doris's death was an accident. Mr McCreath said: "Had the standard of proof been the balance of probability I would have returned a verdict of unlawful killing. But as the standard of proof is beyond reasonable doubt such a verdict is not open to me."

Instead the coroner returned an open verdict on the 33-year-old nurse, who

drowned in the whirlpool bath at the couple's timeshare villa in Albufeira in the Algarve in March 1988. Her husband, aged 36, was held in custody in Portugal for a year before a court cleared him of murder.

PC Waldock of Wansbeck Close, Ellington, Northumberland, is back on duty with the Northumbria force and has custody of their son Christopher, aged seven.

He had told the coroner at an earlier hearing that the drowning was a tragic accident. He said his wife was alone in the jacuzzi when he walked in and saw her floating face down. In a state of "complete panic" he tried to drag her out but dropped her twice then ran for help. The fall, he said, accounted for six bruises on her head recorded

by pathologists as probably non-accidental. The officer, who admitted affairs with other women, had gone on holiday with his wife to patch up their marriage. He said that he confessed to her that he was having an affair with a married nurse, Moira Holt, but claimed that he did not want to leave his wife.

Mr McCreath said: "I had considerable difficulty with any attempt to believe his version of what happened when they were alone in the jacuzzi as honest and accurate in every respect. One cannot be sure about precisely what happened. There may have been some form of argument about his admission of an affair with Mrs Holt."

"I consider that Mr Waldock did commit an unlawful act, was reckless or grossly negligent but I cannot be sure beyond reasonable doubt about that." He said that an officer who knew first aid would be unlikely to panic in such a situation. He doubted the account of how he failed to drag his wife from water which only reached his waist.

Mr McCreath said: "I had the opportunity to assess Mr Waldock as a witness for lengthy periods of time. He was articulate and plausible but my lasting impression was that he was an easy liar under oath as he was with the truth."

At the hearing, PC Waldock's solicitor, David Twigg, and a lawyer for Mrs Waldock's family both announced that they were considering appealing to have the open verdict set aside. Mr Twigg said he wanted an accidental verdict recorded, while Barry Speker said the family might seek a verdict of unlawful killing.

Police in riot gear halt siege

POLICE in riot gear burst into a house to end a 15-hour siege yesterday in which a mother and her son aged 3 were being held.

A note dropped from an upstairs window by Yvonne Licorish, aged 33, alerted neighbours that she and her son were trapped by a man with a knife. Roads around the street in Reading, Berkshire, were sealed off as eight police donned riot gear and prepared to storm the terraced house. Other detectives took up observation positions in neighbouring houses.

The siege began on Sunday night when Victor Alleyne, aged 30, and Miss Licorish

were in the house. Police were alerted when Miss Licorish dropped the note from the window. Another man who was also in the house, left to buy food but instead went to the police.

Mr Alleyne went to the back of the house to answer a police telephone call. As he briefly emerged into the garden, where police negotiators were behind a wall, other officers burst through the front door.

About 20 minutes later, Miss Licorish and her son were led by two policewomen from the house to an unmarked police car. They were driven to Reading police station.

GP sets aside politics to shop around for care

DR COLIN Leon, whose practice lies in one of the most deprived areas of the country, in Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, is a Labour voter, but he believes that the only way he can improve standards of health care and make his service more cost-effective is to take control of his budget.

"I have no time for Thatcherite beliefs but I do think that competition will improve quality. There is no justification for maintaining a service which is inadequate and inefficient just because it has always been there."

Under the fund-holding scheme, GPs will be given an average budget of £1 million to cover most practice costs, including drugs and space. Non-urgent hospital treatment. If a practice saves money by prescribing generic drugs, for example, it can spend the saving on hiring more staff or performing more minor surgery.

Dr Leon admits that some hospitals could lose their financial viability and those that specialise in certain treatments would be more likely to attract referrals. However, he says, once money starts following the patient, the best hospitals will gain.

The doctor, who is aged 62, has practised at Felling Health Centre, Gateshead for more than 35 years. His surgery was rebuilt three years ago to house anaesthetics, health promotional and diabetes clinics as well as an operating room for minor surgery. The practice, which has a register of 8,000 patients, is merging with one down the road to make it eligible to hold its own budget.

In spite of his political views, Dr Leon is also a member of the NHS reform group, which condemned the British Medical Association's scare campaign against the reforms. The doctor is convinced that GPs who control their budgets will be much more able to dictate standards. He has already written a protocol which is being discussed

with the other practice to push for higher standards from hospital consultants.

Dr Leon and his partners intend to do more minor procedures and most diagnostic tests in their surgery, and to spend the money saved on hospital fees on improving patient care. They will refer patients to hospital for more complex non-urgent operations but they will negotiate lengths of stay and choose day surgery where appropriate. The GPs will also agree with the consultant any post-operative care once the patient has returned home in an attempt to reduce unnecessary hospital visits.

Patients will not be expected to wait for more than six weeks for an out-patient visit and they should receive routine hospital treatment within three months. They will, however, be able to choose if they want more prompt treatment elsewhere.

Dr Leon has not submitted his proposals to the consultants yet. "If they turn round and say 'come off it', then we will just say we will

go down the road and try another hospital." He says that patients at the local Nuffield private hospital are being seen within six days by the same consultants who worked in the NHS. "You have to wait a year for an ophthalmological opinion in Newcastle, but if a patient can get it from the same guy within a week."

Dr Leon concedes that if the private hospital offers a cheaper deal, a short waiting list and high quality standards, he would send his patients there. He also admits that he could change 25 per cent or more of his referral pattern, by negotiating more cost-effective deals.

Although Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, has assured the prime minister that very little will change in the first year or two of the reforms, he admits that the budget scheme is a "wild card" because it is the least predictable.

A split is now emerging within the health department about whether the scheme should be changed to minimise the risk of disrupting services as doctors will, in theory, be able to change their referral practices at a whim. Some health officials argue that the only way to ensure that GPs do not change patterns of care too unpredictably is to impose strict monitoring, and encourage block contracts to be negotiated in advance, reflecting existing referral patterns wherever possible.

Other members of the NHS management executive want to limit the number of GPs given control of their budgets to 300 or less, while allowing them total freedom. They believe restricting GPs who wish to hold their budgets would discourage and disillusion the enthusiasts.

Dr Leon agrees, resenting the notion of any controlling hand. He is concerned, however, that hospitals will not have accurate enough prices for treatment procedures by next April, which could make budgeting difficult.

Dr Leon: "No point in keeping poor system"

Dr Leon: "No point in keeping poor system"

BT puts estates off limits

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITISH Telecom is refusing to service telephone lines on two south London housing estates because it says conditions are too dangerous for its engineers.

Southwark council has complained to the regulatory body, Ofel, accusing BT of an abuse of monopoly in refusing service to the council's Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates.

Telecom said yesterday: "We notified Ofel on August 2 that we could not service lines on the estates because conditions in the crawlways represented an undue risk to

health and safety. We have been sending detailed reports to the council for months now, complaining about risks from asbestos, electrical hazards, inadequate and vandalized lighting, broken glass and contamination with rat faeces and urine."

The spokesman said that there were known to be nearly 80 lines out of order on the two estates and about 60 applications for new services unattended. "Our engineers are robust individuals used to working in cramped and difficult conditions but the line has to be drawn somewhere. We

are under no obligation to service phones where there is a risk to the health and safety of our workers," he said.

John Broomfield, Southwark's director of housing, said yesterday: "It is an extraordinary way to treat customers. Tenants rely on telephones to contact emergency services, friends and relatives. Not to do repairs is disgraceful."

BT said: "I cannot understand why Southwark should be expending their energy complaining to Ofel. They should be cleaning up the area and making it safe."



This study of Princess Margaret in the grounds of Kensington Palace has been commissioned from Geoffrey Shakerley to mark her 60th birthday today (Alan Hamilton writes). No official celebrations are planned for what is the royal family's third big personal anniversary this year, after the Queen Mother's 90th birthday and the Princess Royal's 40th. Princess Margaret will go to a family dinner party at Balmoral tonight, attended by many family members

including the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Princess Royal. Born at Glamis Castle in 1930, Princess Margaret was the first member of the royal family in line of succession to the throne to be born in Scotland since the future Charles I entered the world at Dunfermline in 1600. Her life, to some extent consigned to the shadow of her elder sister, was made no easier by the political hounding that prevented her marriage to a divorced

Group Captain Peter Townsend, in the 1950s and publicity surrounding the failure of her marriage to Lord Snowdon. Princess Margaret maintains a considerable portfolio of patronages, including the chancellorship of Keele University, and colonel-in-chief of Queen Alexandra's army nurses. There will be a birthday telegram today from the 600,000 members of what is perhaps her favourite and best-known patronage, the Girl Guides.

Guinness jurors to retire on 107th day

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE jury in the Guinness trial is expected to retire today, the 107th day of the hearing at Southwark crown court in south London, to consider its verdicts.

The judge, Mr Justice Henry, said that he expected to send out the jury after today's luncheon adjournment. They are likely to take some time to reach decisions on the 22 counts facing the four defendants.

Ernest Saunders, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness, and three other businessmen, have denied all charges which arise from their alleged involvement in an illegal share support operation. The prosecution claims that it was set up in 1986 to ensure the brewing group's success in a takeover battle with Argyll, the supermarket chain, for control of Distillers, the Scottish drinks group.

With Mr Saunders in the dock are Gerald Ronson, chairman of the Heron Group; Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker, and Sir Jack Lyons, the financier.

The jury has heard 75 days of evidence and ten days of speeches since mid-February. Yesterday the judge, on the fourth day of his summing up, continued to take them through the indictment, explaining the prosecution case as well as setting defence arguments against it.

The judge reminded the jury last night to bring sufficient clothing and medication to last for the period of their retirement. He warned them that they would not be allowed to read newspapers or listen to television and radio bulletins during their retirement in case they included material that impinged upon the trial.



"My Rolex is more than just a watch, it makes me feel dressed."

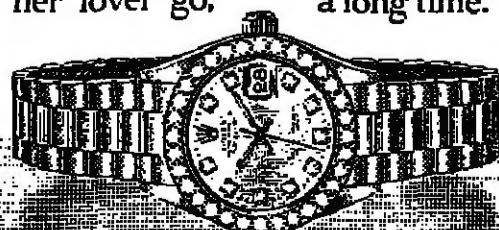
In everything that she does, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa combines a remarkable liveliness and spontaneity with an absolute obsession with perfection. I feel it's not completely the end of the world for her. I'm sure I will have to sing the Marschallin 100 times before I fully understand the depth of the character."

Her famous voice is in such worldwide demand that she is booked up for years to come. Will her voice stand the strain? Kiri says, "What you have to remember is to give quality, not quantity."

For many years, Rolex has shared that same obsession. "My Rolex," says Kiri, "is more than just a watch, it also makes me feel dressed. It has been a friend for a long time."

When she decided to sing the Marschallin in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Kiri said it was "because the character appeals to me. She has understanding and maturity and when she lets her lover go,

For many years, Rolex has shared that same obsession. "My Rolex," says Kiri, "is more than just a watch, it also makes me feel dressed. It has been a friend for a long time."



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BRITISH ASSOCIATION

UK faces being one of worst educated nations, Moser says

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

BRITAIN faces becoming one of the worst educated of all the advanced nations, the British Association for the Advancement of Science was warned yesterday by its president Sir Claus Moser.

"Hundreds of thousands of children have educational experiences not worthy of a civilised nation," he told members at Swansea. Britain had sadly declined and no longer matched continental Europe, Japan, or, in higher education at least, the United States.

"I cannot understand how any government can fail to make education its top priority, given what is at stake for our children and the country. Indeed, if we have any sense, we will make the 1990s Britain's decade for education."

Sir Claus, who is warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and a former head of the government statistical service, called for a Royal Commission on education, which would be all-embracing, visionary yet realistic. Although he acknowledged that such bodies were not popular with the prime minister he said: "One need only look back to some commissions of the past to see how valuable they can be in guiding thinking at a particular time — the Beveridge report; Fulton on the Civil Service; Mountbatten on prisons; Layfield on local government finance and Annan on broadcasting. But few of these major topics can compare with education in importance."

It was, he said, a mystery why education carried such low esteem in Britain. The answers lay in the past, in the Whig tradition, in the priorities of the rural aristocracy, in the influence of the Church and in the days when Britain ruled the world and felt that all it required were qualities of moral character and leadership rather than the back-up of an educated population.

"To this day, intellectuals are viewed with some suspicion," Sir Claus said. "Cleverness is not wholly admired."

The worst aspect of British education, he said, was that most children left school at 16. In 1988, only 35 per cent of those between 16 and 18 were in full-time education, the lowest in any advanced country. In America the figure was 79 per cent, in Japan 77 per cent, 66 per cent in France and 76 per cent in Sweden. Among 16 year olds, only half were still in full-time education, the lowest — apart from Greece — in the European Community.

"The bearing of these circumstances on hope and motivation, on social problems like drugs, crime and hooliganism, are obvious. A new deal for the 16-18 year olds is vital."

He questioned why so many youngsters left school at the first opportunity. Even for those who surmounted O-levels the prospect of further examinations geared to sifting out those destined for higher education was, for many, an

unattractive or inappropriate proposition. What was needed was a more flexible curriculum, taking in academic and vocational courses. Sir Claus was also critical of the gaps in primary school teaching of history, geography, music and reading.

"It is estimated that something like one child in seven leaves school functionally illiterate; some authorities estimate put the figures higher," he said.

Central to the problem was the state of the teaching profession, particularly the quality of the teachers. Many, especially in science subjects, were inadequately prepared, he said. A recent report carried out by school inspectors in Hackney, north London, found that 40 per cent of lessons were unsatisfactory. "It is an intolerable situation and it is children who suffer," Sir Claus said. It was not all a matter of money, he said, although an increase in resources was needed. The proportion of Britain's gross domestic product spent on education had fallen from 5.5 per cent in 1980-81 to 4.9 per cent in 1987-88. This compared with 6.7 per cent in the United States, 7.2 per cent in Sweden and 7.9 per cent in Denmark.

"Wherever you touch our education system, major deficiencies undermining the future of children and country emerge," he said. Britain now needed a new national

commitment to education, which would be symbolised by a Royal Commission. Future generations would then come to look back on it with gratitude. The time was ripe, indeed urgent.

Sir Claus, who carried out

the statistical work for the Robbins committee which led to a great expansion of the universities in the 1960s and 70s, also defended the role of the social sciences.

In the past, he said, they had promised too much, and had

lost credibility. But their input was of great value, and should not be underestimated. He called for an annual state of the nation report, possibly under the Economic and Social Research Council, or one of the leading foundations.

Such a report, covering areas such as poverty, crime, education and urban blight, would, he said, be invaluable in leading to more informed understanding, debate and decisions.

Leading article, page 5



Sir Claus Moser: time is ripe for a Royal commission on education to safeguard the future of the country's children

Scientists challenged to have 'really wild' ideas

SCIENTISTS at the meeting were challenged to come up with "really wild ideas" for research such as generating electricity in a natural way as already happens with electric eels.

The challenge was made as a new clean technology unit was unveiled with an initial budget of £1 million to promote research into environmentally friendly processes and products.

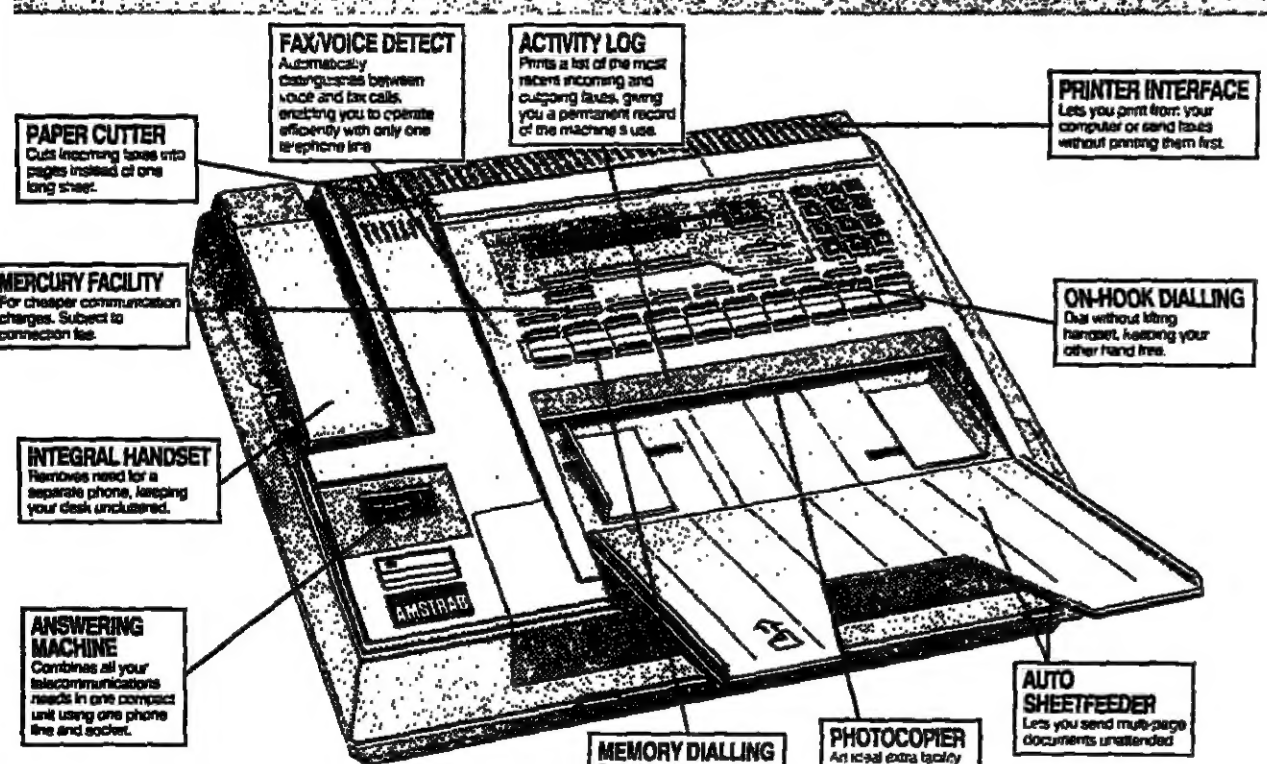
Nicholas Lawrence, the director of the unit, declared his readiness to invest in visionary projects. "A biological route to electricity would be marvellous. It happens with electric eels. Can we do it on a wider scale?"

New kinds of trees might be bred which would grow fast, be easily harvested and could be used as a clean fuel, Dr Lawrence suggested.

He told the association that funds usually went to safe projects. It was, however, also important to fund research into ideas which, though unlikely to pay off, could transform the future. "It's important for research councils to put a bit of their money into really wild ideas," Dr Lawrence said.

The clean technology unit has been set up by the Science and Engineering Research Council and the Agricultural and Food Research Council and is seeking annual funds of £10 million. Among 40 ideas submitted is a proposal to develop a refrigeration system making use of the ability of calcium chloride to cool when it is dried out.

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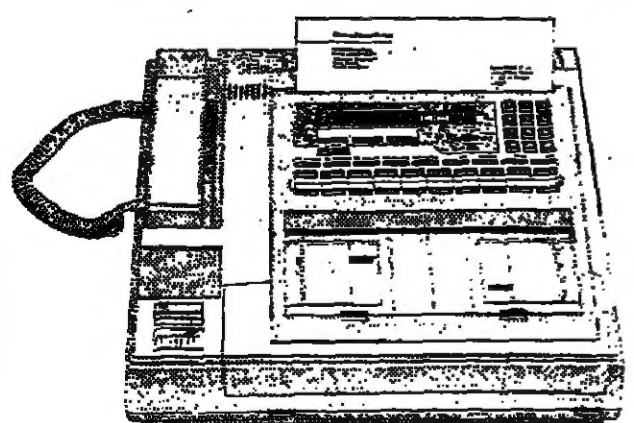
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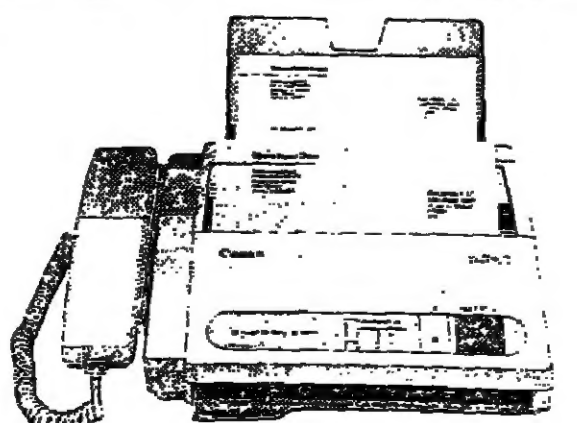
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Embryo research rules 'model for other countries'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

GENETIC engineering of the human egg could become essential to prevent a virus more deadly than HIV from being passed from mother to child, an embryologist said yesterday.

If such a virus emerged, it could threaten mankind by hiding within human cells for years before expressing itself, Dr Martin Johnson of Cambridge University said. The repair of genetically defective embryos by germ line gene therapy, a technique not yet developed, would defeat any such virus.

Dr Johnson said that he was not advocating work of this kind, but merely offering it as an example of the need to consider the implications of future research. "Imagine a virus more deadly than HIV which could hide in the DNA of the eggs and sperm and be transmitted to children or even grandchildren before expressing itself," he said.

"Such a virus could threaten the continued existence of whole communities or even humankind. One way to eradicate it would be to target the viral DNA within the fertilised egg to inactivate it and even to insert a gene that produced an anti-viral agent that resisted reinfection," he said.

Dr Johnson said these prospects needed to be carefully examined before they became realities. "We should be grateful that we now have a body, in the shape of the Human

Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which can undertake such a function."

The embryologist was opening a debate, which will continue in Swansea today, on the medical, moral and social implications of embryo research. He said that work in Britain was now subject to severely restrictive legislation that could be a model for other countries.

"This country has led the way in the biology, the medicine, the ethics and now the legislative and political process," he said. "Many other countries contemplating their own legislation will look to the style and substance of our democratic debate."

Some of Dr Johnson's views were challenged by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College London. "Parliament has made up its mind on embryo research but the moral debate is by no means over," he said. "Embryo research is too morally problematical to contemplate. All research on the embryo is, in my view, to be avoided if it can be, and I believe that it can be."

"There is no right answer to the questions it raises, only answers that are less wrong," Professor Kennedy said. "There must be a creative tension between those who support this work and those opposed to it. Those involved have to ask themselves why they are doing this work and for whom they are doing it."

Algae may curb global warming

A THEORY that global warming could be slowed down by growing algae across the southern oceans may be tested in the next few years (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Phillip Williamson of the Plymouth Marine Laboratory told the British Association that iron, scattered on the sea's surface, would encourage the growth of algae. That would capture carbon released into the atmosphere by the activities of man. Some of the algae would sink to the bottom of the ocean carrying the carbon with them.

Two American groups have proposed experiments along these lines and the Plymouth laboratory is collaborating with them. The assumption is that the only thing stopping the explosive growth of algae in many parts of the oceans is a deficiency of iron, so that adding comparatively small amounts would produce a disproportionate increase in algal growth.

The algae would use the carbon dioxide in the air as a building block, just as land-based plants do. Much of the algae would eventually die on the surface, releasing carbon again, but a small proportion, perhaps 10 per cent, would fall

to the bottom of the ocean where the carbon would be trapped in slow-moving water for 1,000 years. The algae would therefore act as sponges, soaking up excess carbon and removing it to a place where it could do no harm.

Dr Williamson was cautious, however, about the effectiveness of the scheme. An American scientist, John Martin, from Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in Bodega Bay, California, has estimated that 900,000 tons of iron — a supertanker load — would mop up an entire year's output of carbon.

However, Dr Williamson told the session on climatic change, organised by the Natural Environment Research Council, that the bulk of the iron would sink before it could do any good, and perhaps 90 per cent of the algae would die and rot on the surface. He suspects that the supertanker-full of iron might take out only one ten-thousandth of annual production. He nevertheless thinks the experiment is worth carrying out. "It's not something I'm raising a flag for, but we do need to know our options for the future," he said.

Dubcek clings to the faith and ideals of Prague 'spring'

Twenty-two years ago today, Soviet-led forces invaded Czechoslovakia to crush the Prague spring. Nicholas Bethell interviews Alexander Dubcek, the then Communist party first secretary and symbol of the doomed attempt to build socialism with a human face.

ALEXANDER Dubcek, re-elected as president of the Czechoslovak parliament after the free elections, is a lucky man. Against many of the predictions, he has retained a symbolic post, even though he has become a sad figure in parliament and an embarrassing reminder to Czechs and Slovaks of their inglorious communist past.

The West may see him as the man who meant well in 1968, who tried to build socialism with a human face until he fell victim to neo-Stalinist Soviet imperialism. Some might say that the past year has been the "summer" of the "spring" he began 22 years ago. In his own

country, though, as I found during my recent meeting with him in his impressive office in the parliament building off Wenceslas Square, he is a broken politician, fearful of awkward questions and all too aware of his unpopularity.

Pavel Bratinka, the leader of the conservative Oda movement and one of the new Civic Forum MPs, sums up this feeling. "In 1975 he wrote a letter complaining about his treatment, how he was under strict police surveillance. But he said nothing about those who were worse off than him, men like Václav Prohlik, Jaroslav Sabata and Milan Hubil, who served long prison terms for supporting his ideals more than he did himself. This is not the record of a hero. He never signed Charter 77 and he made contact with Havel as late as May 1989, when Havel was released after eight months in prison for laying flowers on a grave. He never joined Civic Forum. He is a bit like Gorbachev, tremendously popular abroad but not too popular at home."

President Havel's adviser, Sasa Vondra, is almost as severe. "Last year I

was a Charter 77 spokesman. Dubcek was not much use to us. He would not sign our appeals on behalf of people in prison. He kept saying that he had some plan of his own to 'mediate' - this at the darkest time of all, when there was no middle ground, no possible chance for mediation. And during the crisis last November he was never available. We could never contact him."

How could he have fallen so far from the heroic pedestal on which he stood in 1968 to the crumpled state in which he finds himself today?

Mr Dubcek's problem is that childhood and family background built him into a life-long prisoner of communist doctrine and a stubborn admirer of the Soviet Union. These convictions remained with him even after 1968 and, in a way, they still hold him, even though he knows logically that they are a religion that has failed the test of history.

His family were brought up to worship Marx and Lenin and the Soviet Union. "My father was dedicated to communism," Alexander Dubcek told me. "He was brought up in great poverty. My

grandfather worked in a glass factory and he died of tuberculosis, because of glass getting into his lungs. My father was only ten. He had to bring up his younger brother and sister. He emigrated to the United States in 1909. He earned good money in Chicago, \$30 a week. When he came home in 1921, he had savings. It was what many Slovaks did, work in America, then come home and use the money to buy a house or a workshop. This was not my father's idea, though. After I was born, he decided to take us all to the Soviet Union."

His young life was, he recalls, marked by a series of "confrontations of ideas" in the Soviet Union. It was not enough to deter him, though. He returned to Slovakia in 1938 and joined the Communists. During the Khrushchev reforms, a spell at the Higher Party School in Moscow restored his belief that, however bad the mistakes, the theory was beyond criticism.

His faith in the "religion" was absolute and in 1968 he had no idea that invasion was imminent. "Of course, we asked ourselves this question. But the

answer was always no. We felt that it would be too great a shock for the left movements of the world."

So, when he was proved wrong, did he think of resisting by force of arms? "Look at the map," he said. He and his friends were seized during the invasion's first hour. The original plan, he assumes, was to have them tried and executed. "The soldiers arrested us 'in the name of the Revolutionary Tribunal,'" he said. "It was only our people's solid resistance and the worldwide protests against the invasion that saved our lives, because the 'Revolutionary Government' was never constituted."

It was, he told me, "the last drop that filled the cup" of his disillusionment. But it was the "neo-Stalinism" or "Brezhnevism" that disillusioned him, not communism itself.

His 1975 letter was an attack not on communism, but on the government's communist credentials. Gustav Husak's rule, he wrote, was "not compatible with marxism-leninism" and "damaging to socialism". He kept public silence for 12 more years, until Mikhail Gorbachev's

reforms. In 1988, he told the Italian Communist newspaper, *Unita*: "I have had to go back to the works that remain topical: Marx, Engels and Lenin. Even now I have before me many of their thoughts, which I see as a legacy for future generations of revolutionaries." His aim in 1968, he added, had been to support and improve socialism.

"It does not mean that there is nothing useful to be found in Marx and Lenin," he told me. "Capitalism has found a way of reforming itself. It is not what it was before the first world war." Marx and Lenin, he believes, were "a product of their time" when capitalism was on the rampage. But they are still valid in terms of humanism, democracy and socialism.

This is his justification. The banner raised by Lenin has now, he believes, been passed to West European democratic socialists. Sweden, not Russia, is today the hope of the future. Yet at the same time he says: "I belong to no party, not even the social democrats. I will stay in politics as an independent, to help us towards Europe, but the old ideas have no basis now. Today I am nowhere."

Pretoria withdraws its indemnity for ANC military chiefs

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government has withdrawn temporary indemnity from arrest from the military leader of the African National Congress and two senior colleagues after belittling statements and allegations of ANC guerrilla infiltration and a communist conspiracy.

Chris Hani, the chief of staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing, Ronnie Kasrils, its former intelligence chief, and Sathyanathan Maharaj were omitted from a government gazette extending indemnity to 41 members of the ANC and the South African Communist Party until the end of the year. The initial amnesty, introduced to facilitate peace talks, expired at midnight on Sunday.

All three are members of the ANC executive committee, and of the Communist Party interim leadership. Mr Maharaj is already in detention under security legislation, Mr

Hani is believed to be in the "independent" tribal homeland of Transkei, and Mr Kasrils is in hiding.

Pretoria has given no official explanation, but it is understood to have been angered by Mr Hani's declaration last month that the ANC might have to seize power if the negotiations broke down. Mr Kasrils and Mr Maharaj are alleged to have been involved in the infiltration of ANC guerrillas, and a communist plan to establish a clandestine militia.

A senior government source said yesterday their conduct had not been conducive to peace. "These guys have not been behaving in a responsible manner," he said. The justice ministry said the three could apply to President de Klerk to restore their indemnity.

Sporadic violence continued yesterday in black townships in Transvaal, where more than 360 people have been killed in a week of clashes between ANC supporters and followers of Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Zulu leader. Three people were killed and four wounded in Kagiso, west of Johannesburg, and 11 bodies were discovered at a workers' hostel in KwaMashu, east of the city. All of them had been shot. Riot police intervened on several occasions as rival groups massed, but no other big incidents were reported.

There is still no apparent prospect of peace talks between Chief Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, despite urgent appeals by the government. As a result, efforts to

establish joint peace committees at local level have foundered. Chief Buthelezi has expressed willingness to meet Mr Mandela, but the ANC has ruled out any meeting with the Zulu leader, whom it accuses of inciting the violence.

Mr Mandela's wife, Winnie, accused security forces of supporting Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha organisation in the strife, and said the ANC might have to reconsider its recent decision to suspend its armed struggle. Opening an ANC branch office in Soweto on Sunday, she accused police of providing Inkatha with arms and of killing township residents. "The government is working hand-in-hand with Inkatha," she said.

Mrs Mandela has a tendency towards militancy, but she was supported by the relatively moderate ANC leader Walter Sisulu, who claimed there was evidence that the police had been assisting Inkatha.

●ADDIS ABABA: The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) appealed yesterday for a halt to the violence between black factions in South Africa, calling it "senseless carnage". "Frictional violence among the victims of apartheid... only plays into the hands of those opposed to the dismantling of the heinous system of institutionalised racism," the 51-member body said in a statement.

The OAU said all those suffering under apartheid should unite in talks on a new non-racial constitution for South Africa. (Reuters)

R. W. Johnson, page 8



On the road: a Xhosa man with his possessions leaving a migrant workers' hostel at KwaMashu in Transvaal, where dozens have died in recent factional violence

Croatian tensions force out tourists

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

GROWING tensions between Serbs and Croats are forcing tourists on the Adriatic coast of Yugoslavia to cut short their holidays.

Newspapers said that tourists were massing on main roads towards the borders from the area around Knin, near the Bosnian frontier, where armed Serbs set up roadblocks to prevent police from stopping them holding an autonomy referendum on Sunday. The daily *Vecernje List* said it interviewed several foreigners, all of whom said they were leaving because of tension between Serbs and Croats, Yugoslavia's largest ethnic groups. It said that the exodus could damage the economy badly. *Vecernje Novosti* reported long queues at border points because of the rising ethnic tension.

The Croatian parliament has interrupted its summer recess and will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the turmoil provoked by the referendum, which reawakened Serb-Croat animosities and threatened to draw the rest of the country into a civil war.

The two groups have been rivals for centuries. But tension rose sharply after Croatia rejected 45 years of communist rule in free elections in May. The change almost totally shattered the relationship between the Serbs and Croats that traditionally has been the pivot of power in Yugoslavia. "I think the Gulf crisis is easier to solve than this one," a Western diplomat said.

The latest turmoil has put even more pressure on the federal government as it seeks to engineer a new constitution. Serbia insists on the present federal structure and strong central authority.

"Neutral" republics say the present federal structure has outlived its purpose, while Slovenia and Croatia say that Yugoslavia is finished in its present form and can only survive as a confederation.

After the right-wing Croatian administration under Franjo Tudjman pledged to constitute Croatia as a sovereign state, the Serbian media launched a hard-hitting propaganda campaign, accusing Croatia of discriminating against Serbs, who represent 11 per cent of the western republic's population.

The intransigence of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian communist leader, who has said his republic would demand frontier readjustment should Yugoslavia change its present structure, has already divided the country, with other ethnic groups alleging that the Serbs want to dominate the nation.

The Croatian leadership is convinced that the Serbian minority is receiving its orders to rebel from Serbia, and Dr Tudjman bluntly accused Mr Milosevic of conceiving, inciting and guiding the insurrection. The populist Serbian leader has denied the charges and launched a counter-attack, again accusing Croatia of depriving Serbs of their rights.

Soviet desertion at record levels

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

TWO Soviet conscripts, aged 20, who seized weapons before deserting from their unit in the Ukraine, were killed a day later in a gun battle with the men sent to recapture them, *Pravda* reported yesterday.

The report highlighted the problems of desertion from the Soviet Army which, according to the defence minister, Marshal Dmitri Yazov, has reached record levels. He told troops near the Black Sea port of Odessa at the weekend that there was great reluctance among young men to report to the conscription board.

He said the army had succeeded in drafting fewer than 50 per cent of those called up in the Baltic republics, but the figures for the Caucasus were much worse. In Armenia, the spring conscription round had been effectively halted because only 7.5 per cent had answered the call-up, while for Georgia the figure was only 28 per cent.

Marshal Yazov also spoke of the demoralisation of the officer corps because of inadequate arrangements for their demobilisation. He said problems included housing and employment for demobilised servicemen and the increasing hostility of civilians towards the military. Officers found themselves discriminated against and even "insulted morally and physically" by civilians.

The marshal, who is not known for enthusiasm for proposed military reforms, promised extensive changes, both in the way that appointments were made and in the role of political officers.

President Gorbachev, in his address to the meeting, which severely criticised Iraq, said that he was considering extensive military reform.

He said that three fundamental questions would be on the agenda of a crucial defence council meeting next month: whether to reduce the number of arms of the Soviet armed forces from its present five; whether the army should become a purely professional body; and whether, as long as conscription remained, conscripts should serve their terms of duty in their home republics.

There have been many complaints from conscripts from minorities that they are victimised. Boris Yeltsin, when he became president of the Russian Federation, said the armed forces should remain under central command. However, he would support a programme which allowed conscripts to serve mainly in their home republics.

●Harvest losses: The Soviet Union is losing one million tonnes of grain a day during the harvest because of labour, transport and storage problems, *Pravda* said yesterday. The report was the first concrete indication of the scale of losses as the country struggles to bring in a record harvest. Students, factory workers, soldiers and even KGB forces have been sent to help with harvesting. (Reuters)

Children die in Beirut gun battles

Beirut - Two children were among 10 people killed in mortar and machinegun battles between rival Shia Muslim groups in Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday, security sources said. Twenty-five people were wounded.

Syrian troops later intervened to halt the fighting between militants of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) and fighters loyal to the Syrian-backed Amal.

Dozens of cars were destroyed and shops and apartments were damaged in the fighting, witnesses said. (Reuters)

Titian find

Venice - A previously unknown work believed to be by the 16th-century Italian artist Titian has been discovered in an art restorer's workshop, city art officials said. The painting depicts a penitent St Jerome. (Reuters)

Biggest family

Tokyo - A Japanese woman aged 44 has given birth to her eighteenth child, a boy, making her family the biggest in the country, hospital officials said in Yachiomata, near here. She now has eight daughters and ten sons, the oldest of them aged 25. (Reuters)

Tribes clash

Delhi - At least 52 people died and more than 100 were injured in four days of clashes between former head-hunting tribes in India's northeastern Nagaland state, officials said. (Reuters)

Killer epidemic

Addis Ababa - Ethiopia said that a meningitis epidemic in the rebel-held northern Wollo province had killed thousands of people. The official Ethiopia News Agency said between seven and 10 people were dying every day. (Reuters)

Priest drowns

Nettuno - Father Josef Zverina, aged 77, a Czechoslovak dissident priest, drowned in a weekend bathing accident during a visit to a religious shrine south of Rome, police said. (Reuters)

SS man charged

Stuttgart - Josef Schwammberger, aged 78, a former SS concentration camp commandant, has been charged with involvement in the murder of more than 3,400 Jews, including at least 50 who he is alleged to have killed himself. (Reuters)

EC bends rules to embrace East Germany

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission, interrupting the summer break for an emergency session, will today complete its proposals for bringing East Germany into the European Community and announce a tailored transition timetable.

Jacques Delors, the commission president, will unveil a 129-page document against a background of a collapsing East German economy, disquiet over the mounting costs

of German economic union, and a changing timetable for reunification, with the date now set for October 14. The 17-strong commission will approve six months of intensive bargaining between Brussels, Bonn and East Berlin over the pace of East German integration and temporary exceptions to EC rules to allow the East German economy time to adapt to competition.

A commission team has

been working throughout the holiday, poring over the mass of EC legislation which a united Germany will be obliged to implement in the East. The most contentious areas are agriculture, trade, the environment and competition policy. German officials sought lengthy transition periods, especially in implementing the EC's tough environmental rules which almost no industry in the East

can yet meet. Brussels is prepared to allow until the end of 1995 before enforcing full compliance on air, water quality and waste disposal rules.

But as the East German economy slides into chaos, feeling is hardening in Brussels that only a "big bang" will work and that exceptions should be kept to a minimum. There are fears that transition costs will rise uncontrollably, with other EC members subsidising special arrangements, despite Bonn's earlier assurance it would bear the costs.

A priority is the rapid reform of East Germany's inefficient and antiquated agriculture. Over-production of milk and an excess of sugar - exacerbated by Cuban imports - will cost the common agricultural policy dearly.

Brussels has come under pressure to give special aid to East German farmers to compensate for their estimated drop in incomes of up to 40 per cent since economic union on July 1. But any rebates would arouse the anger of farmers elsewhere in the community, and would go against EC promises in negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to move towards sharp cuts in farm subsidies.

EC leaders approved the broad lines of the commission plan for East Germany at a summit in Dublin in April. Since then the problems have worsened. Brussels foresaw East Germany maintaining its trade links with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe for some time after reunification. However, trade contracts with Hungary and Czechoslovakia have now been broken, leading to bitter recriminations from both countries and trade with Moscow, currently accounting for 40 per cent of East German output, is likely to see a swift fall.

Brussels is becoming increasingly nervous over the wholesale buy-out of collapsing East German industries by West German companies. Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner for competition policy, has warned East Berlin that he will not tolerate breaches in community competition rules by the creation of virtual monopolies in key fields such as insurance and energy.

Delors eases monetary plan

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, president of the European Commission, will today present a commission paper on economic and monetary union that will form the basis for a crucial discussion of the issue by community finance ministers in Rome next month.

The paper, to be formally adopted by the 17-member commission at a special meeting today, is expected to call for a short, second-stage transition period before the

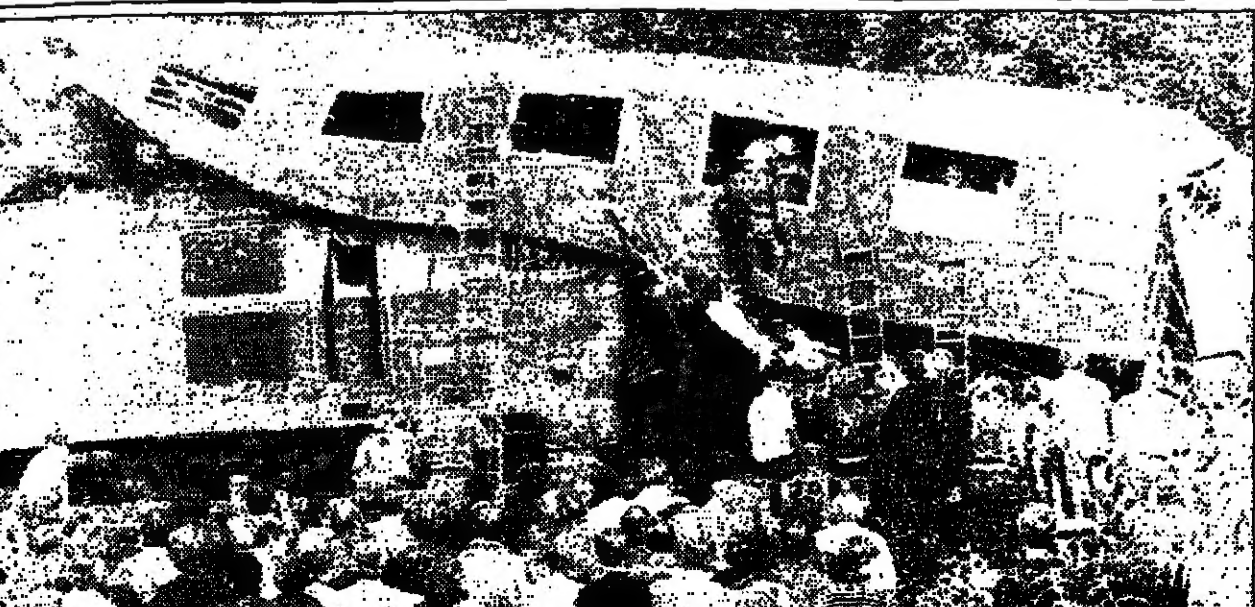
European Community moves into the final third stage of full economic and monetary union. However, it backs away from the calls in the Delors report last year for tough EC rules binding member states' national budgets.

The paper is also expected to give full backing to the wider use of the ecu as a currency unit by banks and markets.

But the commission offers no encouragement for Brit-

ain's alternative proposal for a hard ecu. The proposal will be discussed by the EC monetary committee, comprising finance ministers and central bank officials from the Twelve, on September 4, just before the informal meeting of finance ministers.

The commission says the EC should consider setting up a central bank in 1993, at the start of the single market. This would mark the beginning of the second stage of EMU.



Polish rescue workers searching for survivors amid the wreckage of a Prague-Warsaw express train in which 15 people were killed and 57 injured when it crashed into the back of a slower train near Warsaw yesterday

Georgian nationalists stand to benefit from new electoral law

FROM NICK WORRALL IN TBILISI

NATIONALISTS in Soviet Georgia have moved a step nearer to winning a substantial parliamentary majority over the Communists in the republic's first multi-party elections on October 28.

After many attempts by the present parliamentary chairman, the Communist first party secretary, Givi Gumbaridze, to delay the vote, a new electoral law gives the advantage to the nationalist movement, even though it remains deeply divided. The law allows for a parliament of 250 deputies, half chosen by direct election and half by

proportional representation. Candidates must have lived in the republic for 10 years and not be members of the Soviet armed forces. The language of debate will be Georgian.

There were scenes of near-hysteria in Tbilisi's broad Rustaveli Avenue on Saturday night, when it seemed as if Mr Gumbaridze's delaying tactics might have paid off and given the Communist party the advantage.

The veteran nationalist leader, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who had been invited to contribute to the debate, led a walk-out of nationalists, caus-

ing crowds outside to shout for a general strike and the immediate resignation of Mr Gumbaridze.

"Gumbaridze's behaviour was very, very bad," Mr Gamsakhurdia said later. "He had rejected all our proposals, he seemed to be on the phone to Moscow every 15 minutes seeking fresh instructions and angling to get his deputies to force through his proposals."

The new law was decided on by an unpublished majority vote after Mr Gumbaridze, who was shaken by the public reaction, resumed the debate.

Why black kills black

R.W. Johnson

Durban Last week more than 240 people were killed in ethnic-political violence in the Johannesburg area — nearly four times as many as died at Sharpeville — and more than 50 others died in the eastern Cape. The pace of political change since February is breathtaking, and largely positive, but right across the spectrum South Africans are now deeply scared that February's brave breakout towards a post-apartheid future could be overtaken and engulfed by a spreading wave of violence.

The violence has many causes. The African National Congress line is that Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha movement, which is almost exclusively Zulu, is deliberately attacking ANC supporters with the connivance of the police. This line should not be wholly discounted, but it should not be taken too seriously either. In its favour is the fact that Buthelezi resents his present exclusion from the ANC government negotiations on a new constitution which are now quietly going on. The violence makes everyone realise that to leave him out means trouble. It is also a fact that in past incidents in Natal, at least some elements in the police clearly helped stir things up and then sided with Inkatha.

But that is as far as it goes. There is no evidence that either Buthelezi or the police are behind the latest upsurge of violence. For a start, the eastern Cape is a Xhosa area dominated by the ANC, and Inkatha has no presence at all. At least some of the blame for the 50 deaths there last week has to fall on ANC youths who took violent exception to their headmaster belonging to a sports association of which they disapproved. But it would be absurd to blame the ANC itself, as it would be wrong to blame Zulu violence in Soweto on Inkatha. Buthelezi simply does not possess — certainly not on the Witwatersrand — the organisation that might allow him to order Zulus into battle. After Nelson Mandela drew an 80,000 crowd in Soweto in March, Buthelezi tried to match the feat and pulled in only 4,000.

The attempt to explain the violence as an Inkatha-police plot has other flaws. One is that there can be few less enviable jobs anywhere than having to stand between thousands of rampaging Zulus and their foes, particularly when both sides have acquired guns. This is what the (predominantly black) police currently have to do — for low pay and under an intense international spotlight and a hail of criticism. Already this year 42 policemen have been killed and hundreds injured. Without doubt there are undisciplined right-wing elements within the police, but the idea that the police have an interest in stoking up or keeping going the sort of violence seen recently seems

absurd. Buthelezi has loudly and publicly deplored the violence at every stage and repeatedly asked for a meeting with Nelson Mandela to bring it under control. It is the ANC which refuses such a meeting — not on principle, for it agrees there must be a Mandela-Buthelezi meeting eventually, but only on its terms and at a time of the ANC's choosing. This is a strange position to cling to when you know that every day wasted means more lives lost.

Zulu feeling seems to have been inflamed by several factors. One of the motifs of the violence in Natal has been Buthelezi's insistent view that the ANC, despite its support among younger and better educated Zulus, is an essentially Xhosa movement which is an interloper in "his" territory. Despite the ANC's indignant disavowals, many Zulus now accept this view, for most of the ANC leaders are indeed Xhosa. There is a problem, too, over the ANC demand for the KwaZulu homeland to be broken up and its police force disbanded. While this is in line with standard ANC anti-homeland policy, it is noticeable that the ANC is not making similar demands about the (Xhosa) Transkei and Ciskei.

Finally, the ANC's recent call for a national strike as a protest against Inkatha's role in the Natal violence was probably a misjudgment. The call was in the classic ANC style — a decision taken at the top which then had to be enforced on the ground without the benefit of well-developed mass structures of any kind. What this involved in practice was intimidation, by young "comrades", of those trying to go to work. In the Johannesburg area, Zulus so determined to find work that they were willing to put up with the rigours of hostel life were less than thrilled to find themselves threatened. Similarly, ANC calls to isolate Inkatha have been interpreted by the young comrades as a licence to harass Zulus in their midst. This was to play with fire as the resulting display of outraged Zulu manhood has shown. The Zulus are a minority on the Witwatersrand but nobody can stand against them: only Xhosa seem to have tried, and have lost.

A Mandela-Buthelezi meeting would so enrage the ANC's radical wing as to threaten ANC unity. But the alternative — for South Africa to slide into the abyss of tribal strife — is far worse. Mr Mandela must wish he had not given way to radical pressure to call off the meeting with Chief Buthelezi which he set up when he was released from prison in February. Not only are such talks inevitable in the end — just as talks between white and black were inevitable in the end — but the longer they are delayed the worse the situation will get. And South Africa cannot easily afford another week like the one it has just been through.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

D'YE KEN Jean-Paul? With his cotter gris? "Twas the sound of his horn called me from my bed... Yesterday, and yesterday, and yesterday, to the first syllable of recorded holiday. Jean-Paul has crept in his petty pace from day to day, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing except that the road bends outside our Provencal door. For the bend is, as literally as a cliché ever gets, a red rag to a bull: when Jean-Paul spots a bend, he puts his head down, boots his cotter gris out of its petty pace, flares his electric nostrils so that the bellow echoes from hill to hill, and charges at it. As with all red rags, there is nothing on the other side, but, as with all bulls, Jean-Paul hasn't yet twigged this.

Nor is he alone: no Ferdinand he. At the break of day, if you will allow one more poetical conflation, a lowing herd winds slowly past my lit. They are all cotter gris, those grey 2CV tricycle-vans whose engines are based on the maracas principle: you put a lot of old bolts in a cocoa tin and, provided you shake them noisily enough, the wheels go round. I do not know how this works. I know only that it enables me to ken Jean-Paul when he's far, far away; so that when the break of day brings him to the bottom of the hill, I wake up, and when, five minutes later, he blows his horn at the bend, I am called from my bed, because there is no point lying there trying to kid yourself that there will not be another one along in a minute.

Nothing more separates our cultures than our hooter strategies. The French hooter to signal what might happen in the future, the British to signal what has happened in the past. The English hooter is a mechanical oath, expressing an opinion as to what another driver should not have done. The French hooter is a monitory cry, warning a driver of what he might be about to do. That is why they call them *avertisseurs*.

Since a French driver might be about to do anything at any time, the hooter is in constant use. Only this morning, I noticed that the Kwifit at Nice not only replaces exhausts, it re-

places *avertisseurs*, too. Has any English hooter ever worn out? It was not all I noticed. Driving up the hill from Nice to Venoc, I passed a road-sign. It said *Ni Vitesse, Ni Bruit*. I did not pass it far. I pulled over. I strolled back, as one ravished by the view, a Midiphile looking now towards the sun-winking Med, now towards the soft ochre tumble of St Paul: someone to whom you would have to get very close in order to spot what was going on in the corners of those ostensibly beguiled eyes. The sign was fastened to its post by two nuts. The corners of the eyes grew wet beads.

I eased a spanner from the car's tool-kit. One nut came off as if it buttered. The sign hinged downward from the other, with a slight squeak. I quickly put my shoulder beneath it, to level it to inconspicuousness, at which moment a car came up the hill: leaving me no option but to turn my back, lower one arm, and offer the driver the sheepish smirk of the enuretic.

He disappeared over the crest. The second nut yielded. I walked back to my car like a man carrying a road-sign. An hour later, outside my house, a hitherto unofficial tree now made it illegal to speed or honk.

"What have you been doing?" said my wife. "Oh, this and that," I said. The less she knew, the better. With both of us on Devil's Island, our kids would run amok. (Though, if apprehended, I plan to approach the French bench with that arcane Cricklewood law, *lex itinerandi*, i.e., I have not broken the law, I have merely moved it somewhere else.) "What about you?"

"I've been reading Anthony West's biography of Wells," she replied. "Did you know that Wells built a house for his mistress Odette Keun just along our road, near Grasse? West says he used to infuriate the locals by driving everywhere with his thumb on the hooter. I wonder if that's where the French learnt it?"

I looked at the sky. I sipped my gin. They can be a curious shape, the things to come.

Conor Cruise O'Brien considers Saddam's downfall inevitable as outside pressure takes its toll

America leads: UN can only bless

There is much reference to "the role of the UN" in relation to the seizure of Kuwait. But "role" is a misnomer. The UN has no role because it is not an actor; it is a stage. This month the stage was used for the most effective performance yet: the enactment by consensus of drastic economic action against Iraq until it withdraws.

What happens then depends not upon the stage but on the actors: the major powers can enforce the sanctions they voted for or allow them to become a dead letter. In the past, permanent members of the Security Council have actually sabotaged resolutions for which they had voted: in the Congo crisis of 1961, two Security Council members sabotaged the implementation of a resolution prescribing international action against secessionist Katanga.

It is also possible for powers to use the UN stage to fake an action instead of performing as expected. Thus, when Ian Smith unilaterally declared independence for white Rhodesia, Harold Wilson wanted a respectable pretext for declining to use force. He found the pretext on the UN stage, by calling for oil

sanctions against Rhodesia, and loudly proclaiming that these would bring Smith to his knees. The Security Council duly voted for oil sanctions, which were immediately violated, mostly by Britain. Both superpowers have used the UN to distract attention, while climbing down. Eisenhower did this in 1956 over Hungary, Khrushchev in 1962 over Cuba.

Because the UN has so often been used in these ways, to dramatise political fictions, few people have much belief in it. This is especially so in the Middle East because of Israel's capacity to disregard UN resolutions. Most of the "United Nations resolutions" quoted by Arabs are really General Assembly resolutions (drafted by Arabs themselves) which are not binding on anyone, even nominally. That kind of distinction is, however, hardly perceptible in the bazaar. Arabs inevitably ask why Iraq is expected to obey UN resolutions while Israel is allowed to defy them.

It is against this background that we should see the American decision, supported by Britain and France, to send forces to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and to enforce

the sanctions against Iraq by interception and other means. These steps should be seen not as a departure from the measures agreed by the Security Council but as expressions of a determination to apply the sanctions until their objective is achieved.

In itself, voting for sanctions sent no clearly comprehensible message to Saddam Hussein and his entourage, but the American military build-up in Saudi Arabia, plus interceptions, sends a message that is altogether clear. The message is that strict enforcement of economic sanctions is the very least that Iraq can expect if it holds on to Kuwait. Strict enforcement, with the application of a blockade (though so far this is undeclared), means economic ruin for Iraq. This action, therefore, is very different from the Security Council sanctions against Rhodesia.

Economic ruin, then, is the minimum facing Iraq if Saddam Hussein remains in power and Iraq stays in Kuwait. But if Saddam were to decide to fight back, the prospects for Iraq would be worse still. If he were to execute American hostages or attack American forces or Israel, Iraq

would experience something not much short of annihilation.

Many Arabs probably believe Saddam when he claims he could defeat the Americans in war, but there is one pivotal group of Iraqis who certainly do not believe it and who have every interest in seeing that it is never put to the test. They are the army officers, professionals who know Saddam is talking dangerous nonsense and who now have clear incentives to destroy him. True, this is a daunting task, but the prospects for the Iraqi army, and Iraq as a whole, if Saddam remains in power are still more daunting.

Saddam has strengthened his position with the mass of his soldiery by emerging as the champion not of the Arab nation, but of Islam. Yet he must have damaged his standing with those soldiers by his wild talk about defeating America. Such language goes down well with civilian demonstrators in Amman, but hardly with those who would be in the front line.

That the Iraqi army now has clear incentives to destroy Saddam is the most encouraging aspect of this exceedingly dangerous situation.

And these incentives were brought about not by the vote in the Security Council, but by the energetic action led by the United States to demonstrate that sanctions are being enforced.

Now that France has come into line over interception of shipping, China is unlikely to hold out much longer, since it needs to mend its fences with the West. This means that the Security Council should soon be ready to authorise a blockade.

Such authorisation is an important part of the business of the UN. For the UN is not only a stage but a shrine. Like the ancient shrine at Delphi, it is a place with an equivocal aura of holiness, to which mortals repair in times of emergency. It provides oracles, in the form of resolutions, to which the powerful pay selective attention. It dispenses, as required, blessings, curses, legitimisation, ambiguities — all to be manipulated. Today, it is important as a source of legitimacy: blessing America, cursing Iraq. But legitimisation should not be confused with leadership, or even with potential leadership. A stage is a stage, a shrine a shrine.

The human shield that puts Saddam beyond the pale

Hostages have been taken in time of war — and as guarantors of peace — since time immemorial. The Romans held foreign princes as hostages to deter their fathers from misbehaving. The hostage was for centuries an established (even civilised) means of guaranteeing compliance with treaties or agreements that were more or less freely entered into — a tradition which effectively lasted until 1748, when the Earl of Suffolk and Lord Cathcart voluntarily went to France as hostages under the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle until Cape Breton was handed back to the French.

The British themselves took hostages less than a century ago, when Lord Roberts wanted to deter Boer partisans from disrupting his supplies. Yet Saddam Hussein has outraged the world by using civilians from western countries to protect military targets from possible American attack.

President Bush and Mrs Thatcher can now forestall domestic opposition to military intervention by pointing to Iraq's violation of rights enshrined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949. Nothing could be better calculated to prick the liberal conscience than the prospect of women cold-bloodedly put in danger by being moved to strategic sites, or of infants starving to death.

When did the nature of the hostage change? Hostages had barely ceased to play a part in the conventions of European diplomacy before they became a tactic of terror during the French Revolution. When the counter-revolutionary rising took place in the Vendée, the authorities passed a "law of hostages" which legitimised the detention of the families of émigrés, and their deportation in reprisal for the killing of government troops. It was generally unsuccessful, even when practised by Napoleon.

With the advent of industrialised, "total" war (around 1870), this use of hostages became more common. During the Franco-Prussian war, the Germans treated partisans as hostages, putting them on trains to deter ambushes. But the French revolutionaries of the Paris Commune were no less ruthless: they executed the archbishop of Paris and other digni-

Daniel Johnson traces hostage-taking through the ages — from voluntary treaty guarantors to tactic of terror



ties, who had not volunteered to be hostages, merely because the Thiers government refused their terms.

The Germans used hostages again in both world wars, executing many. The Hague conferences of 1899 and 1907 did not specifically allude to hostage-taking, but at the Nuremberg tribunals, those who had executed hostages were treated as war criminals. Only at Geneva in 1949 were reprisals against hostages forbidden, and the strict rules then introduced under which foreign nationals may be detained in wartime explicitly outlawed Saddam's stated plan to surround military bases and strategic industries with hostages.

The trouble with applying this body of precedent to the Middle East is that many Muslims do not regard European history, and the international law to which it gave rise, as relevant to their customary treatment of civilians in wartime.

least of all to the treatment of non-Muslim hostages. The Koran is open to more than one interpretation on this subject, and in any case its doctrines have in practice been no more rigorously observed by Muslim rulers than have biblical precepts by their Christian counterparts.

The plight of the hostages now held in Iraq, as of many other westerners held by Arab governments or their proxies in recent decades, resembles in some respects that of the European Christians captured by Muslim rulers and semi-official pirates as recently as the early 19th century. For centuries it had been common for the Mamelukes and Ottomans to treat subject Christians as actual or potential slaves, even though Muslims accept that, like themselves, Christians are "the people of the Book". If the Muslim subject had very few rights as a human being, the infidel had still fewer, and the

infidel subject of an enemy ruler none whatsoever.

Western opinion, which had been unconcerned about oriental Christians, was roused to action only by the ransoming or enslavement of Christians captured off the Barbary coast. Nelson wanted to use his fleet to crush the corsairs, but the practice was not finally stopped until 1815, when an American expeditionary force led by Stephen Decatur forced the bey of Algiers and Tripoli to cease their piracy and release their prisoners.

So when Ayatollah Khomeini seized American hostages in Iran, he was acting in accordance with tradition and, moreover, avenging past humiliations. His real purpose was to exploit the power of television to influence democratic politicians in America. As a senior Shia theologian, he could at least claim scriptural support for his conduct. Saddam Hussein has made no such attempt.

Yet discounting all cultural factors, Saddam's cynical calculation — which differs only in degree from Khomeini's — cannot be conceded. It is based on the absurd notion that an innocent party can be made responsible for the evil consequences of another's evil actions. This is the proposition that Mr Bush and Mrs Thatcher are being invited to assent to, and to which Jimmy Carter by implication did assent: "Unless you do as I say, I will kill X. Hence if you do not obey, you will be responsible for X's death."

There is a danger that the tendency of Americans and West Europeans to blame themselves — will eventually react against itself, unless their leaders take decisive action to deal with Iraq. An embryonic peace party is already visible in Britain, even before the first shot has been fired in anger. Self-appointed British Muslim leaders, from the pre-Iranian Kalim Siddiqui to the converted former pop star Yusuf Islam, are aligned with anti-Americans from Tony Benn to Enoch Powell in a coalition which could quickly be reinforced once blood is spilt. The hostages will play a central part in all propaganda aimed at saving Iraq from suffering the consequences of Saddam's incursion into Kuwait.

Under these difficult circumstances, the message which Western leaders must communicate to their peoples is that an enemy incapable of treating hostages even as though they were prisoners of war has no place in civilised company. Mrs Thatcher in particular, with her strong convictions from Judeo-Christian ethics, is well placed to make the case that there must be no reprieve for Saddam. He has gone too far.

Muslims who are ready to abandon old attitudes towards the lives of Christians deserve the greatest respect, for the appeal of Islamic fundamentalism is not easy to resist. But from those who profess to speak for Muslim moderates, both in this country and in the Middle East, a clear condemnation of the Iraqi treatment of hostages is the least that should be expected. Though the Western prohibition of reprisals against hostages is comparatively recent, the Muslim world has been slow to appropriate it.

Back on a wing and a prayer

While everyone in Kuwait is trying desperately to escape, the Venerable Michael Mansbridge, archdeacon of the Gulf, is doing his best to get back to be with his flock.

Mansbridge and his wife Fiona were on holiday in Britain when they heard of the invasion, but they had no hesitation in deciding to return, in the belief that whatever the danger, their presence was more necessary than ever. "We are hosts to 22 other churches, so we have wide ecumenical responsibilities and people of many different backgrounds come to us for help in a crisis," says Mansbridge.

Speaking from Abu Dhabi, which is as far as he has got, the archdeacon says: "We feel considerable loyalty to the Kuwaiti government. It has been very generous to the church. I won't say people are not apprehensive, but we are all praying and hoping."

Many of their prayers are being said for the Rev Michael Jones and his wife, Jean, from St Paul's Church, Ahmad in Kuwait. Nothing has been heard of them since the Iraqis moved in, although a letter from them arrived at Mansbridge's English holiday home on the morning of the invasion. "They were getting ready to leave Kuwait after seven years, but are stuck there — or in Baghdad. They may have been taken there with the British contingent. If so, they won't beat a loss: Michael has often taken holy communion at St George's in Baghdad."

First prize in the Friends of the Earth's summer fund-raising raffle will take the lucky winner on a "Middle East adventure". The group is already tiring of suggestions that the second prize should consist of two such adventures.

Revolving door

Businessmen and holiday-makers who rely on the annual *Good Hotel Guide* published by the Consumers Association must brace themselves for an element of confusion over advice on where to lay their heads. Hilary Rubinstein, the guide's creator and editor, and the CA have parted company on less than friendly terms, and in future there will be two rival guides. The original Rubinstein version, recommending establishments throughout Europe, will be published by Macmillan next month, to be followed by the Consumers Association volume, covering only British hotels.

Rubinstein, who started the guide in 1978, is furious with the association's decision to produce a rival. He says the CA originally asked him to sell the copyright of the guide and continue for two years as editor. "I did not care for their offer and made other publishing arrangements."

But Patricia Yates, editor of the rival, to be known as *The British Hotel Guide* and sold by mail order — is unrepentant. "We thought we could use our resources more effectively," she says. "All 700 hotels in our guide have been inspected by our own professional staff."

Rubinstein seems ready to apply whatever sanctions he can;



I believe they have committed a hostile act," he says. "They have invaded my territory. It's a bit like Saddam Hussein going into Kuwait."

The managing director of The Catholic Herald has advertised in his own newspaper for secretary. Short-hand and typing are required skills, along with an ability to add. But is it sensible to head the advert "Do you believe in Purgatory?"

Dad keeps mum

Breakfast in the Bernard Ingham household is a strangely muted affair these days. At least it has been since Ingham's only child, John, moved temporarily back to the family home in Surrey.

Ingham, head of the government information service, is Mrs Thatcher's unofficial voice and has been nicknamed by many the deputy prime minister. That makes life awkward, since Ingham junior, after working at the Manchester office of the *Daily Express*, is now its diplomatic and defence correspondent in London.

John, who will attend his

father's off-the-record lobby briefings, insists that he is not taking advantage of his father's position at the heart of government to scoop his rivals. But do lobby rules apply at the breakfast table? "My father is scrupulously fair," he says. "He never tells me anything."

Paws for nostalgia

Two of the best-known stars in cinema history will be reunited for the first time in nearly 60 years when Fay Wray visits London next month. The American actress made 77 films between 1925 and 1958, but will always be remembered as the woman who survived the clutches

Film Theatre, she will meet her old admirer at the Museum of the Moving Image on London's South Bank. The original of the monster which held her in his paws stands no more than 18 inches high and holds pride of place at the museum. There is also a 5ft version of King Kong, standing defiantly atop the Empire State Building with a model Miss Wray perched in his paw. "It's terribly exciting," says a spokeswoman. "This is the first time they have met since the film."

Miss Wray plans another nostalgic trip a little nearer home. A photocall has been arranged at the Empire State Building, which she last saw in 1934, the year after *King Kong* was made.

Just a stroll

Lord Denning, embroiled in controversy over the Guildford Four, is about to launch himself into another dispute. This time the former Master of the Rolls will not be taking on ex-cabinet ministers, such as Sir Leon Brittan, but Hampshire county council. A tireless campaigner on local countryside issues, he is supporting the 180 villagers of Lasham, near Alton, in their fight to stop the council turning a picturesque footpath into a road.

The villagers could not afford a solicitor and turned for help to Denning, who lives nearby and has taken on the planners in the past over similar issues. Does he expect his latest venture to land him in further controversy? "I am always getting into hot water, even boiling water, but this should be only lukewarm," he says.

of King Kong on top of New York's Empire State Building. Now an elegant, youthful 82, Miss Wray is coming to London to promote her autobiography, *On the Other Hand*. In between book-signing sessions, television interviews and a lecture at the National

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A MIGHTY UNDERTAKING

President Saddam Hussein's grip on his own country has so long been maintained by terror that he may have calculated external reaction to his hostage-taking of foreign civilians in the same terms. His technique for silencing domestic dissent has been simple: merciless destruction of opponents and potential rivals, material favours for the unquestioningly subservient, and networks of informers to control both. By singling out nationals of a handful of Western countries for deportation to military targets, and releasing those of some others, he may have expected Western respect for human life and individual rights to work in his favour, undermining a hitherto remarkably united response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The messages now reaching him from Baltimore, London and Paris should convince even Saddam that he has again misjudged the international mood, reinforced the consensus he had sought to weaken by fear, and brought the alliance ranged against him closer to military action. France, which had previously declined to join Britain and America in military enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, has ordered its navy to participate. Mrs Thatcher has convened the British war cabinet in urgent session and Douglas Hurd, while carefully restating Britain's determination to deter an attack on Saudi Arabia and to make sanctions effective, has not ruled out "further measures". And President Bush, who yesterday for the first time described the Americans in Iraq and Kuwait as "hostages", told applauding American war veterans that America refused to be intimidated.

Mr Bush has now warned his countrymen in the gravest tones that aggression must be checked and "evil" confronted — a task involving not only patience and careful planning, but "personal sacrifice". American forces would, he said, be given "whatever it takes to help them complete their mission". He could have given no clearer indication that Saddam's resort to blackmail has rendered unrealistic the policy of waiting for economic

sanctions against Iraq to bite, building up deterrence and keeping American powder dry. By evoking Eisenhower's address to Allied troops before the Normandy invasion, that "great and mighty undertaking", he has also served notice that if military action is unavoidable, there will be no half-measures.

The American president has repeated his demand for the release of all foreigners, and formally held the Iraqi government responsible for the safety and wellbeing of American citizens. Saddam is continuing to deport them from Kuwait to Iraq, along with more than a hundred Britons and a smaller number of French and West Germans, and has compounded fears for their safety by confirming that they have been moved to military targets and announcing that diplomats of countries which do not close their embassies in Kuwait by Friday will lose their immunity. Powerless to protect civilians, they would then themselves be hostages.

Mr Bush is rightly still determined to act if at all possible in concert not only with America's Arab and Western allies, but with the agreement and even active support of the Soviet Union, to whose role in the fight against Hitler he referred. The initial coalition defending Saudi Arabia is not only holding firm, it now extends to other threatened states in the Gulf. But the Soviet Union continues to make support for military action conditional on UN authorisation.

That must be urgently sought, if necessary by convening a meeting of the foreign ministers of the five permanent members. Iraq has, as Mr Bush said yesterday, launched "a ruthless assault on the very essence of international order". The UN, symbol of that order, has very little time left to align itself unequivocally against aggression by sanctioning the use of force. Saddam has spurned every UN resolution, and multiplied his violations of international law. If force has to be used, as is increasingly hard to avoid, diplomacy should be seen not as an alternative but as its adjunct.

SENTENCING VIOLENCE

The approach of the Conservative party conference rather than some new penal insight no doubt explains the announcement yesterday by Home Office minister John Patten that the government is to get tough with persistent violent and sex offenders. He proposed that their sentences should be lengthened specifically to protect the public in the future, overriding the common and fair assumption that the punishment should reflect only the severity of the crime itself.

Violent and sexual crimes are to be exempt from the principle of proportionality in sentencing that is to be contained in the new Criminal Justice Bill to be presented to the next session of Parliament. That was first said in the white paper published in February, so all Mr Patten did yesterday is to announce that he has accepted his own advice. He felt the need for a timely piece of news management, dressing up the bill as a crackdown on the most frightening kind of criminal behaviour when in fact the principal (and welcome) effect of the bill will be to encourage fewer and lighter prison sentences for non-violent crimes. He has his reasons.

The Home Office needs no persuading that too many criminals are being sent to prison for too long, but that is not the sort of proposition that wins standing ovations from the Tory faithful. The government's political difficulties in this area are real enough. Public opinion, alarmed by repeated announcements that recorded crime has risen yet again, is still in a punitive mood towards the criminal, still sees a heavy sentence as the best deterrent. The public has been slow to understand that prisons are colleges of crime, and that bad and overcrowded prisons, of which Britain has too many, degrade and brutalise their inmates.

That makes them even less fit (and therefore less likely) to lead a productive and law-abiding life when they leave. The wide

discretion judges now enjoy in sentencing will be somewhat limited by the Criminal Justice Bill. It is limited already, in effect, by the right to appeal against a sentence which is out of line with normal custom. But the criteria applied by judges and by the Court of Appeal have been implicit and undeclared.

The clear implication of February's white paper was that the government is not happy with the way the judges have been using their sentencing discretion. Prison sentences have been on average longer than they needed to be; judges have failed to make sufficient use of the many alternatives to prison with which in recent years the law has equipped them. So the Criminal Justice Bill will lay down the principles of sentencing which judges should follow, in the knowledge that if they do not apply them, the Court of Appeal will.

One of the underlying principles they will have to bear in mind is that any conviction dealt with by a court previously has already been punished by the previous sentence, and the individual should not be punished twice by the imposition of a lengthier prison term than his crime deserves. Mr Patten, following the white paper, proposes that violent and sexual crime should be an exception to this principle, on the grounds that some criminals must be taken out of circulation not just because of what they have done in the past but also because of what they might do in the future. When imposing this extra sentence, judges will have to say so.

If this power is not to be an invitation to injustice it will need to be most carefully defined in the bill and even more carefully supervised by the Court of Appeal. Such an exception may be the necessary price Mr Patten has to pay for the political acceptance of his otherwise enlightened sentencing reforms; but he would have been wiser not to make a virtue out of necessity.

STRICTLY EDUCATIONAL

Sir Claus Moser, president of the British Association and former head of the government's statistical services, has made as all-embracing a declaration on the state of British education as has been heard for many a day. This country, he stated in his presidential address yesterday, is "in danger of becoming one of the least adequately educated of all the advanced nations". He produced much familiar and uncontested evidence to make his case, from the high number of children leaving full-time education at 16 to dissatisfaction with the way basic subjects are taught and the poor quality of teachers.

Sir Claus is made "sad and angry" by the "poor educational paths experienced by the majority of our children". Few would disagree with his sentiment. But he also advances a more contentious thesis. He suspects that "at root, Britain... does not care as much about education as other countries". Here he is surely wrong. How children should be educated has been an issue of hot and constant debate since the war.

It began with the postwar establishment by R. A. Butler of a secondary school system which was available to all, regardless of means and including a grammar school element which led potentially to university and professional status. That system, though at first lauded, was then stigmatised as socially unfair and divisive and from the Sixties onwards, it was steadily replaced by comprehensive secondary schools. New attitudes to teaching in both primary and secondary schools were also devised which diminished the emphasis on formal learning.

These educational fashions did not deliver the goods. They were increasingly criticised for producing too many ill-educated children lacking the basic standards of literacy and numeracy. In the last decade, successive education secretaries have therefore tried to education educational standards, but their remedial have often been resisted by the educa-

tionalists (and sociologists), and in beyond Whitehall, who dominate attitudes towards teaching.

The latest stage in this process has been the government's introduction of the national curriculum designed to see that every child pursues certain basic subjects and has his attainment regularly tested. In the hands of the educational establishment, however, the national curriculum was applied with so much self-destructive detail as to alarm even Mrs Thatcher, who had fervently supported it. For the education secretary John MacGregor, the national curriculum was made an uphill task.

In short, it is not so much lack of interest, thought or funds, as Sir Claus suggests, which has bedevilled British education, as the deep doctrinal divisions in Britain about education's social purpose. It is not that people do not care about education or that (as Sir Claus oddly thinks) that it is in thrall to social attitudes ingrained in Whig England. It is that education has become a political battleground.

Another main theme of Sir Claus's address was the diminished status of social scientists now. For this he holds the government largely responsible, though he also admits that social scientists, in their respected, postwar "golden years," may have "over-estimated their problem-solving capacity". He laments the present government's reduction of economists and other social scientists since the Rayner review of 1980. Yet it was from the social engineering ambitions fashionable among sociologists that many of education's problems have flowed.

Sir Claus recommends a Royal Commission on education (or at least a prime minister's committee) which could produce something analogous to the Robbins report. Royal Commissions, however, are as useful for shelving as for solving problems. The real need is for all concerned with education to put their sociology aside, adopting standards which are strictly educational.

UN role in sanctions against Iraq

From Dr Vera Gowlland

Sir, There is useful precedent for the debate on the legality of "blockade" as distinct from "embargo". When, in April 1966, the UK was faced with the necessity of taking similar action to interdict foreign tankers heading towards Beira (the then Portuguese port of Mozambique) with oil destined for Southern Rhodesia in contravention of the Security Council in November 1965, Lord Caradon (Britain's UN representative) had stated that a resolution from the council was essential to enable the United Kingdom to take within the law all steps, including the use of force as the situation may demand, to stop the arrival at Beira of ships taking oil to the rebel regime... Without the authority of the Security Council... the United Kingdom Government has to face defiance of the United Nations with its hands tied.

It is even more illuminating to quote the solemn words of Mr Goldberg, then US representative, who had declared:

What the United Kingdom is asking for... is one of the gravest and most far-reaching proposals that has been made to this Council... The question of intercepting vessels on the high seas, the question of arresting and detaining them, is a matter that has a long history in the field of international law... We are asked in the Security Council... to put our sanction upon what will be a rule of international law — that when this Council acts, vessels on the high seas can be arrested and detained in the interest of the international law which we will be making here today.

This led to the adoption by the council of the so-called Beira resolution which specifically authorised the UK to prevent, by the use of force if necessary, vessels

attempting to break the oil embargo.

Yours sincerely,
VERA GOWLLAND,
10c Chemin Rojoux,
1231 Conches,
Geneva, Switzerland.
August 17.

From Professor H. W. Singer
Sir, We all welcome the revived role of a reinvigorated United Nations in the peace-keeping process in the Gulf crisis. There is now strong interest in a revival of the Military Staff Committee as part of the Security Council mechanism, as envisaged in the UN Charter. The creation of a UN naval force is now talked about — taking up a proposal made four years ago by the Russians during the Iran-Iraq war.

Perhaps this is the time to point out the need for complementary action on the economic side — to equip the UN also with a financial arm, to compensate countries for losses suffered as a result of complying with their sanctions obligations, or possibly as unintended victims of a blockade.

In fact it was foreseen that the UN should be given a soft-aid fund to be administered under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc). This proposal for a special United Nations fund for economic development (Sunfed) was duly elaborated in the 1950s, but in the atmosphere of the McCarthy years in the US it did not stand any chance of implementation. Has the time come now to reconsider?

Yours,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex,
Brighton, East Sussex.
August 17.

Palestinian education

From the Chairman of Unipal and others

Sir, The forcible closure by the Israeli authorities of educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is causing great and justifiable bitterness. All six Palestinian universities have been closed for nearly three years, and most colleges of higher education. Since the 18-month-long total closure of West Bank schools and the effective closure of those in the Gaza Strip, through continued prolonged curfews, many individual schools in both areas have been similarly prevented from functioning.

We have just learnt, for instance, that five schools in Tulkerem refugee camp (West Bank), closed by military order from February 11 to May 22 and during several curfews in June, were due to open on July 10 for a month, to make up during the school holidays for some of the time lost. The Israeli authorities demanded, however, that the schools should be closed again from July 2, and warned UNRWA (the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees), which runs them, that they would fore-

ibly prevent the schools from reopening.

Such actions, as well as a ban on organised alternative teaching, can only suggest that the Israeli government is using the denial of the human right to education with its consequent imposition of ignorance as a collective punishment to suppress the natural resentment of the Palestinian people after years of military occupation. The damaging effect will be felt by children and young people far into the future. They know this as well as their elders and it increases their anger.

We trust that the strongest possible remonstrations on this matter will be made by individuals, HM Government, and the governments of the European Community to the Israeli government, in support of those made by UNRWA.

Yours sincerely,
BASIL HEMBRAY, Chairman,
Unipal (Universities' Educational Fund for Palestinian Refugees),
RICHARD PHILLIPS (Director),
ELEANOR AITKEN
(Founder trustee),
ADRIAN,
DOROTHY HODGKIN,
MARY WARDOCK,
12 Helen Road, Oxford.
August 14.

London's vacant see

From Mr Brian P. Price

Sir, Preliminary Barnes (August 11) states that it is increasingly difficult to find churches where the authorised services of the (Anglican) Church are being used within the London diocese. I find this surprising. Authorised services are indicated in the third sentence of the preface to the Alternative Service Book: "The ASB, as its name implies, is intended to supplement the Book of Common Prayer, not to supersede it".

In my experience, the BCP is possibly used more in London diocese than elsewhere. In other dioceses, where liberal and Evangelical notions have sway over the traditional, main Sunday services are predominantly ASB whilst BCP has virtually disappeared: the congregations may then be more worryingly low than even those in London diocese.

Liturgical ideas and practices in London may be in the geographical minority, but they are authorised and could be adopted to advantage elsewhere, if the trends in Church attendance

(which the introduction of the ASB was supposed to stem but manifestly has not) are to be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN P. PRICE,
Falstaff Cottage,
Barrow Green Road,
Oxted, Surrey.
August 12.

From the Bishop of Fulham

Sir, My work takes me to many different parish churches in this diocese and I therefore have more opportunities of observing them than does Mr Barnes.

In my experience their effectiveness or otherwise depends not on the bishop of the diocese, the tradition of churchmanship or the rite used, but on the character of the pastor. The many gifted ones I come across are not usually the sort of people who would write unkind letters about a bishop who serves the Lord and his people with distinction and devotion.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FULHAM,
4 Cambridge Place, W8.
August 15.

School sport

From Mr Colin del Strother

Sir, I agree with Sir Roger Bannister (August 7) that as many children as possible should maintain a habit of sport and exercise into adult life. But from personal experience I feel compulsory school sport sometimes has the opposite result.

Probably as a result of the combination of short-sight, little natural coordination and a family where sport was not encouraged, I found compulsory sport associated with public humiliation and the mockery of team-mates. This did not have the "confidence-building" effect such activities are meant to inspire.

For nearly 10 years after leaving

school I hardly spent any time in organised sport. About five years ago a friend introduced me to weight-training, which I quite enjoyed. This led me to try other physical activities such as rock-climbing and wrestling, which I would once never have contemplated.

I am left with two regrets — the years during which I could have enjoyed some sporting activity and did not, and the thought that these were the very years when I could have reached my peak possible level of performance. I doubt if more compulsory school sport would have helped.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. del STROTHER,
32a Dancer Road,
Richmond, Surrey.

From pillar to post

From the Rector of Odd Rode

Sir, When in my previous parish, we were told that we were no longer in Cheshire but in Greater Manchester. The Post Office asked us to continue to address our letters to Cheshire, as it was hard to cope with the new large county area although postcodes had been in use for some years.

Since then I have moved to south Cheshire, where the problem is reversed. Our postcode is S17 showing that letters come via

Steps to improve lawyers' efficiency

From the Treasurer of the Bar Council

Sir, Both branches of the legal profession are keen to implement the recommendations of the efficiency commission. There is thus no justification in your leading article of August 16, "A surfeit of lawyers", to use the words "glaring corrupt practices".

The Bar has been in the forefront of change in relation to the recommendations of the efficiency commission, many of which have emanated from initiatives of the Bar Council. The Bar Council changed its rules to allow junior counsel to appear unattended by a solicitor three years ago, well in advance of the subsequent recommendations of the efficiency commission.

The rule allowing QCs to appear alone had been promulgated by the Bar Council in the late 1970s but the restriction on barristers doing so in criminal legal aid cases was due, not to the Bar's rules, but to the wording of the criminal legal aid regulations. These were only amended by the Government in February 1989. It is worth recording that it is not uncommon for QCs to appear alone for the prosecution in criminal cases and also in civil cases.

QCs are only instructed in serious, complex or sensitive cases. If a junior barrister has already been instructed, worked on the case and formed a relationship of confidence with the client, it would be to the disadvantage of the client if the junior was dismissed when the QC was instructed. The solution is for cases suitable for a QC alone to be identified by the solicitor before he applies for legal aid, so that his application is for a QC alone.

It is of course important to ensure that there is a proper use of public money. At the same time, the interests of the legally-aided litigant must be safeguarded to avoid criminal legal aid becoming a second-class service.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY THORNTON,
Treasurer,
The Bar Council,
11 South Square, Gray's Inn, W.C1.

From Mr Jeremy Allen

Sir, Your leading article drew attention to the comparatively infrequent use made of the new

arrangements under which barristers may appear in the crown court with a solicitor's representative in attendance. However, your comment that "solicitors still regularly attend when they are not needed" takes far too simplistic an approach.

The proposals of the efficiency commission quite properly concentrated on ensuring that the interests of the defendant were paramount. So they recognise that a solicitor would be justified in attending court where the defendant is a person at risk (such as a juvenile, or a person with an inadequate knowledge of English); where the defendant was likely to receive a substantial sentence of imprisonment, or to receive an immediate sentence of imprisonment for the first time; where witnesses need to be marshalled; or where the barrister appearing was not the barrister originally instructed.

Proceedings in crown court are a very serious matter indeed and it would be quite wrong to expect defendants to be represented by a barrister who was not personally familiar with the case, without a representative from the solicitor's firm in attendance. The pressure on solicitors and their staff is such that they will not wish to attend cases unless they see the need to do so, especially as the legal aid allowances rarely cover the cost of attendance.

Late changes in the barrister instructed are far too frequent. The main reason for that is that the crown court, in its understandable determination to make the maximum use of judicial time, is reluctant to give fixed advance dates for hearings generally and refuses to do so in the smaller cases to which the new arrangements could apply. It is thus commonplace for barristers to find themselves instructed in two or more cases due to take place in different courts on the same day. There is little either branch of the profession can do about that; the remedy lies in the Lord Chancellor's Department's hands.

Yours etc.,
JEREMY ALLEN (Chairman, criminal law committee),
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, W.C2.
August 16.

Business courses

From Dr Laurence Handy

Sir, Your article, "A question of degree" (Appointments, August 9), alleges that business school programmes are "based on functional specialisms" which tend to be "little more than collections of disparate inputs" from tutors whose backgrounds have been "confined" to their faculties.

This is certainly not the case at Ashridge, where our general management programmes, including our MBA (master's degree in business administration) programme, are issue-based and taught by interdisciplinary staff. These individuals have solid business experience and are not academics.

Neither can the charge that managers taking MBA degrees are

often too young and inexperienced be levelled at Ashridge. Our MBA is designed for people with more than five years' management experience and an average age of 34. We select managers who are destined to become future senior general managers, and not those "likely to take a seat on managing committees".

Finally, we reject the blanket allegation that business schools fail to listen to their clients. Our MBA is based on a major "live" project undertaken by managers on behalf of their companies and agreed in close consultation with the sponsoring company. It must fulfil a real business need.

Yours faithfully,
L. I. HANDY (Director),
Ashridge Management College,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.
August 13.

NHS reforms

From Dr A. J. Seeley

Sir, Mrs Lucille Campey (August 10) doesn't seem to be able to answer Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites's question (July 31), GP budgets, although finite, will apparently be able to provide their patients with full and proper treatment with no question of patients not getting the treatment they need. Like most of the Government's propaganda on the reforms, principles are strong but details are scarce.

In negotiations with our regional health authority it has been made clear that the total amount of our budget would be exactly the same as the health service currently spends on our patients for

the defined items covered within the budget.

For years our health authorities, faced with the need for treatment outstripping their budgets, have looked for efficiency savings or, failing those, to restrict the service. Rationing is produced by generating waiting lists, closing beds and so on.

Budget-holding arrangements will mean that waiting lists will be moved from health authorities to the GP's desk. The hapless budget-holding GP will no doubt then be accused of being inefficient.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. SEELEY,
Bridgmont Medical Practices,
Norridge House,
7 High Street,
Bridgmont, Shropshire.

Efta admissions to EC

From Lord Cockfield

Sir, I have never at any time expressed views on the admission of Efta countries to the European Community of the kind attributed to me by Mr Coleman (August 18); nor by any stretch of the imagination can my speech in the House of Lords (report, June 23) bear the interpretation that Mr Coleman tries to put upon it.

On the contrary, in that speech I clearly and strongly supported Austria's application to join the Community. Equally, if other Efta members applied to join, I would support them also.

The simple truth, however, of which Mr Coleman seems to be unaware, is that at present no other Efta member has applied to join, and that stems from domestic considerations of their own. Mr Coleman says that he "fails to understand". That, I think, is the clearest possible verdict on his opinions.

Yours faithfully,
COCKFIELD,
House of Lords.

Spelling it out

From Mr A. D. Roper

Sir, The letter from Mr K. A. Yeomans (August 15) mentioning your leading article of August 10 appears to contain an assumption that bad spelling is always the result of poor memory or even mild dyslexia. I would suggest that in many cases it is more fundamental than this. The key to good spelling is not simply a matter of memory but correct education in both the construction and derivation of words. Spelling should not be taught simply as a memory exercise.

In view of the very clearly perceivable large numbers of school leavers now lacking in basic literacy skills it really is time that the schools returned to the correct priorities and teaching methods.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN D. ROOPER,
88 Marshals Drive,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Slow learners?

From Mr J. N. Farrow

Sir, Whenever I see government ministers on television working at their office desks they always seem to be using pen and paper.

Do they not have computers or word processors or do they just not know how to use them?

Yours faithfully,
J. N. FARROW,
1 Denham Hall, Denham,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

The fine gauge of classic taste

The polo shirt from the Peak District was neglected for too long. Now, Liz Smith reports, the world cannot get enough of the 'Smedley'

Mention the name John Smedley and some people get misty-eyed. There is a tactile pleasure in wearing one of Smedley's fine-gauge sea-island cotton or merino wool sweaters and a feeling of real quality.

The odd thing about the craze for the Derbyshire company's finely knitted polo shirts and rollneck sweaters is that only five years ago demand for such traditional designs had shrunk to the point that there were murmurs in the Matlock boardroom of discontinuing the classics in favour of jazzier jerseys with golfers or fishermen emblazoned on the front. The company not only rode the tide, but soon discovered that fashion's next wave swept them back into vogue, giving them virtual monopoly of production of the top quality polo shirts for which the world was clamouring.

The three-button sea-island cotton polo shirts that Paul Smith's trendsetting customers slip under their unstructured suits are made by Smedley. Fine wool turtlenecks sporting the Hermès label are dispatched from one of Smedley's three Peak District factories to Paris, and the sleek merino wool mock-turtleneck sweater displayed under one of Ralph Lauren's tweed hacking jackets in his Madison Avenue shop is also made by Smedley. When Rei Kawakubo of Comme des Garçons turned up from Tokyo to go through the company's archives in Lee Mills, outside Matlock, she picked out vintage designs of John Smedley vests and combinations to be remade for her own collection.

While it discreetly satisfies the demands of top designers, sales of the company's own-label knitwear are booming. A new generation has discovered a cracking good polo shirt that sells in all the best fashion shops, such as Woodhouse for men or Whistles for women. So just as they called that alligator-decorated short-sleeved piqué polo shirt their Lacoste and wore it with their Nikes and Levis, they now wear their Smedleys. The ultimate accolade, however, is that from October The Conran Shop, second only to the Design Museum as Sir Terence Conran's temple to contemporary design, is to be a showcase for a line of basic Smedley sweaters in black, white and ecru sea-island cotton.

"Smedley", the generic word, is now accepted to mean the company's three-button polo style which, at £35 in sea-island cotton or just under £50 in wool, is not cheap. A tour of the Smedley factory explains why.

In the warren of buildings that has grown up around the original 1784 stone mill, every process in the creation of the Smedley is carried out to scrupulous standards. There are state-of-the-art machines that have perfected the skills of dyeing, scouring, drawing, combing, spinning, milling and twisting the finest raw materials



Simply the best: Smedley polo and roll-neck styles look good on men and women and have the timeless quality of authentic classics

into bobbins of fine top-dyed (dye in the wool stage) worsted yarn. There are other machines that knit, with "tickler" needles operating the all-important fully fashioned (rather than cut-and-sew) shaping at the shoulders. Every sweater is steam-pressed on flat hardwood body shapes, pressed again, and then hand-pressed a third time with an old-fashioned heavy iron. Teams of seamstresses finish each sweater by hand. Cotton sweaters are piece-dyed in finished knitted sections for even colour. Long sleeves, which tend to get knotted up in the machines, are dyed separately.

To appreciate the challenge of producing as fine a sweater as a "Smedley", the pink polo style worn here (£56 in botany wool) under a cashmere and wool tweed jacket (£336 from Margaret Howell in Beauchamp Place, SW3), or

the olive botany wool roll-neck (£52.50), you must understand gauge numbers. They indicate the number of "needles" used in knitting each square inch. A chunky Shetland jersey, for example, is worked on a nine gauge machine, a lambswool jersey usually on 15, sometimes on 21. Smedley claims it is the only company to attempt anything finer. Its polo shirts start at a sleek 24 gauge quality, and some vests or sea-island sweaters at an even finer 30 gauge.

Graeme Robinson, Smedley's marketing manager, explains the pitfalls in producing sweaters of this quality at the rate of 12,000 a week. The company makes 10 per cent more than is ordered to allow for the quirks and flaws that are inevitable, even with a highly skilled workforce. "Most knitting companies give up. We just stick

at it for 200 years," he says. The Smedley story started in 1784 when John Smedley, in partnership with Peter Nightingale (great-uncle of Florence Nightingale) and inspired by Sir Richard Arkwright's pioneering water-powered factory at Cromford, built a spinning mill at Lea Bridge, a few miles up the valley. By the end of the 18th century, and by then on his own, he extended the business to knitting hosiery. It remains a family business. Today's chairman, Andrew Marsden Smedley, is the sixth generation, and successive generations of Derbyshire families continue to work for the company, which employs around 600 people.

Craig Alexander, Smedley's design head, has the knack of developing classic styles and reworking the colour range, without losing the traditional feel. For example, a

new style of polo shirt has a double row of buttons, a scoop-necked sweater has been extended into a snazzy short dress. Smedley underwear, its stock in trade until the Thirties, when the first Smedley sweaters were created, is the new craze with the young. The spectacular upturn in Smedley's fortunes dates from the appointment of Tony Langford as managing director in 1984. In the subsequent five years turnover has doubled, to £12 million. "Even if fine-gauge knitwear goes out of fashion one day, it will not be for long," he says philosophically. "We will stick with it, and the customer always comes back."

John Smedley stockists include S. Fisher, Burlington Arcade, W1; Harrods, SW1; Flannels, Manchester, Shepherd, Cambridge; Marks & Spencer, Newcastle and, from October, The Conran Shop, London SW3.

Now you see it, now you don't

As the forces adopt desert camouflage, a look at the art of military deception, from trees that 'walk' to the thermal shield

There is romance in camouflage. The idea of overcoming your enemy by stealth, not simply by force of numbers and equipment, is attractive. And so, in the past couple of weeks, newspapers and television in the West have been allowed to photograph jets painted pink, troops wearing sand-coloured camouflage combat dress, and vehicles being transformed by patterns of mottled beige and brown desert camouflage, in place of the traditional northwest European green and black ("Arctic" and "Jungle" are the two other camouflage options in the British Army's repertoire).

On Friday, *The Times* had a photograph captioned: "Mike Corvill, a signalman from Liverpool, adding final touches of desert camouflage to one of the satellite dishes taken to the Gulf..." There was no accompanying story. There was no need for one.

Everyone knows what camouflage is for — and, from the point of view of the military, there could be no better indication of resolve than its ability to change itself from a European-coloured force to an Arabian-coloured one in 48 hours. Accordingly, each of the services has its camouflage experts.

The idea of camouflage has been around for a long time: it appears in war mythology from Homer's wooden horse of Troy to Shakespeare's Birnam Wood. But most military historians date the emergence of camouflage as a separate design discipline to the first world war.

Until the end of the 18th century, warfare was conducted mainly on the display principle, with armies competing to make themselves look glamorous and frightening through brighter uniforms and taller hats. In 1801, the 60th Rifles — now the Royal Green Jackets — became the first British unit to discard the traditional red tunic, and by the end of the Boer War, khaki had become the accepted colour for all British troop uniforms.

The French are usually credited with the "invention" of camouflage, even though French troops were still going into battle in the first months of the first world war in bright blue uniforms. Nature was an obvious reference point for early camouflage. In French, camouflaged combat clothing became known as *l'arbre leopold* (leopard dress); and one of the first forms of camouflage was the "observation tree" — an artificial tree with a ladder inside leading to an observation perch.

What attracted some artists to camouflage was not so much the inspiration of nature as the

opportunity for modernist experiment on a grand scale. The first camouflage section in the British Army included a portrait painter, a theatre designer, a topographic etcher and a sculptor; later it was said of the camouflage work of Edward Wadsworth, a well-known vorticist, that it was "the last and most spectacular manifestation of the vorticist experiment"; and it was Norman Wilkinson, an outstanding marine artist, who was responsible for the most bizarre and avant garde camouflage idea of the war, that of "dazzle".

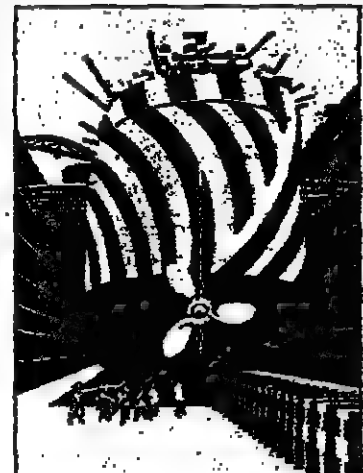
To camouflage a large ship at sea is impossible — and until someone succeeds in building a wave-shaped ship, it is likely to remain so. Wilkinson's solution was to paint bright, geometric patterns of black, white and blue on the sides of ships, which would deceive the eye, making it difficult for U-boat commanders to decide the number, class and direction of vessels they were observing.

Later, an Admiralty study concluded that there was no evidence that a U-boat commander had ever been deceived — but "dazzle" painting was not immediately abandoned, because it was judged to have a good effect on morale. The most-quoted evidence of artists' interest in and influence on the development of camouflage is perhaps Gertrude Stein's anecdote: "I well remember at the beginning of the war being with Picasso on the boulevard Raspail when the first camouflaged truck passed. It was at night, we had heard of camouflage but we had not yet seen it and Picasso, amazed, looked at it and then cried out: 'Yes, it is we who made it, that is cubism.'" So the romance was confirmed.

The contemporary reality is unfortunately much more technical and much less romantic. Camouflage has become a branch of the larger field of military deception. As Colonel Michael Dewar pointed out last year in his book *The Art of Deception in Warfare* (David & Charles, £12.95), new technology provides the means of seeing through most covers. Radar, radio intercept equipment, infra-red photography, satellites: against these kinds of electronic surveillance, electronic camouflage is the only real defence. Infra-red absorbent materials, thermal shields, "Stealth" shapes: these are the camouflage of the future.

Sadly, visual camouflage seems likely to become increasingly symbolic, providing morale-boosting pictures for the press.

CALLUM MURRAY



A ship in "dazzle" camouflage

On a showpiece development which became a byword for mugging, the walkways — and crime figures — come down

Creating close harmony down on Mozart Estate

IN THE grey area of northwest London where the City of Westminster stops and the borough of Brent begins, there is a sad estate which looks as though its life is finished, at the tender age of 15. The overhead walkways are down, the mechanical diggers are in and the air is thick with dust. The men in smart suits and hard hats are the only indication of some future life on the embankment ground. This is the discordant Mozart Estate in north Paddington, and it is the graveyard of a design for living.

When it was completed, in what now seems a far-distant era of estate planning, it was vaunted by the council as a fine example of the new wisdom: it was a low-rise development, full of communal space and sudden flashes of green amid the tasteful red brick. There were nooks and courtyards and irregularities that aped far older urban communities and were a deliberate reaction against the soulless towers of the Fifties and Sixties.

But as the construction finished, so the trouble started. The very features which had been designed to humanise the estate made it easier for muggers and burglars to escape detection. By the middle of the Eighties, Mozart was becoming a designer dustbin.

Now, at a cost of £3 million, the council has set in train the first stages of an operation which will turn the estate's character around. According to the local police, the removal of the overhead walkways, phase one of the programme, has resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in crime on the estate.

Mozart is the first estate in the country to be so radically altered in line with the new theories on the link between design and crime. These theories are largely the product of research by a team led

by Professor Alice Colman who, as director of the Land Research Unit at King's College, London, wrote, five years ago, the influential book *Utopia on Trial*. She in turn acknowledges a substantial debt to Oscar Newman and his *Defensible Space*, published 13 years earlier. It was Newman who first applied intensive scientific research to the correlation between crime and residential environments, and who evolved a method of quantifying the specific design defects which were a cause of degeneration.

Since the controversy aroused by her own book, Professor Colman has established the Design Improvement Controlled Experi-

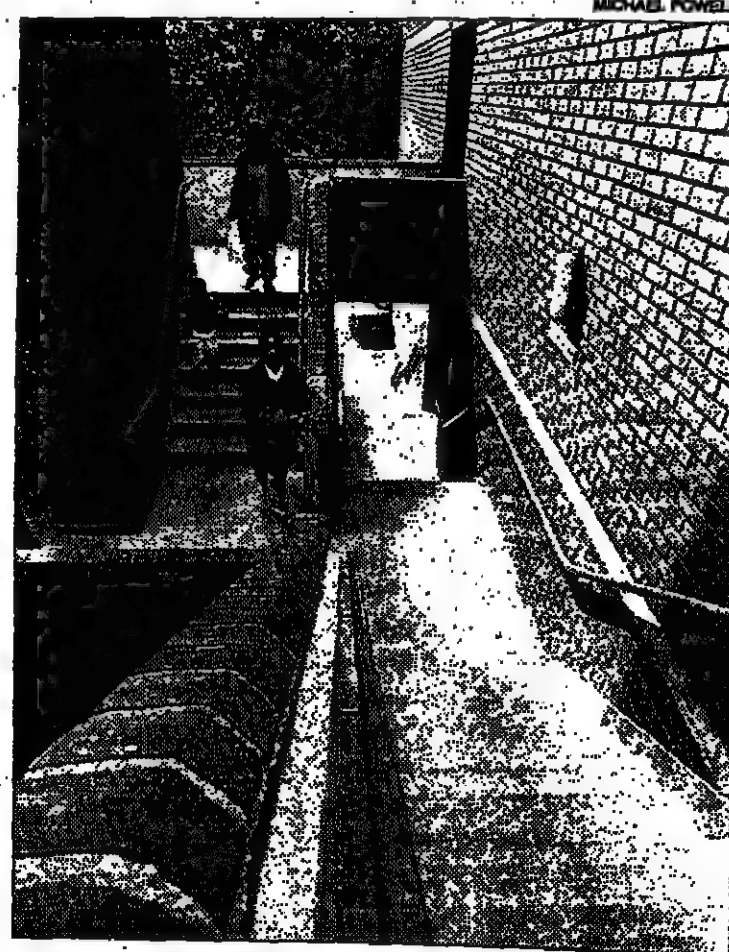
'It aspired to beautify the urban environment, but has been transmogrified into the epitome of ugliness'

ment (Dice) with £50 million from the environment department and the enthusiastic backing of the prime minister. The aim is to identify other estates which would benefit from the same treatment and turn them around in the same way. Lessons learnt in north Paddington will have a bearing not only on the work of the consultancy, but also on the nature of estates as yet unplanned. There is much yet to be done at Mozart: building new access roads, dividing corridors, eliminating communal space with no clear function, building new "lodge" flats with bay-windows giving a clear view up and down

the front of the estate. The irony is that a stone's throw away stand the low, well-kept terraces of the Queen's Park Estate, with more than twice the number of Mozart's 700 dwellings, and a far higher proportion of residents who have exercised their right to buy from the council. Part of this late Victorian estate was demolished to make way for the Mozart homes and if Westminster had not been dissuaded from its original plan, then the remainder of the old buildings would also have been earmarked for redevelopment.

The signs are now that the Victorians, even though they might not have claimed precedence of social problems a century hence, did get it right: many architects now believe that a return to a grid format with long, tree-lined terraces, holds the key to the future.

At Mozart, "nothing seemed to work", says Brian Foyle, an architect with Max Lock Easton Perison and King, the firm engaged to translate Professor Colman's prescriptions into reality. "The situation just got worse, and none of the usual solutions, such as management schemes, seemed to do the trick."



Safety steps: areas such as this on the estate are being humanised

ber of dwellings per entrance. "Harold Macmillan's government, and the Housing Act of 1951 were at the heart of the trouble," she says. "At that time the idea was simply to put up as many units as possible, to get rid of the housing backlog. Yet every one knew that the way in which it was being done was a false solution. The housing department admitted not only that it was costly, but also that it was not resulting in a higher density of development. That was a myth. But they went ahead just the same."

When, in her book, she asks why Britain's postwar housing vision should have turned into an "all-

pervading failure", her conclusions have a painful local relevance. She is writing of Utopia, but she could as well be addressing the Mozart Estate: "It aimed to liberate the people from the slums but has come to represent an even worse form of bondage. It aspired to beautify the urban environment, but has been transmogrified into the epitome of ugliness."

There may be another irony on the fact that a "guilty" council such as Westminster is among the first to invest in Professor Colman's remedies, but it is a welcome one.

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EDINBURGH: FILM FESTIVAL

Youth hogs the old spotlight

Geoff Brown looks at the offerings of new directors, focusing in particular on the debut of Whit Stillman and his *Metropolitan*

The Edinburgh Film Festival is 44 years old this year, far older than most of its audiences and many of the directors whose works fill the programmes. Feature films by new directors are competing once again for the Charles Chaplin award, consisting of £3,000 and a bizarre sculptural trophy designed by Eduardo Paolozzi — perfect as a conversation piece, though probably a devil to dust.

Film school students worldwide have their output on display in a competition sponsored by Channel 4. John Landis, a leading light among Hollywood directors with a bulging young audience almost at their back and call, has been in town for a retrospective tribute, the world's first (and, some cynics say, possibly the last). With such ingredients, the festival — organised, as last year, by *The Times* film critic David Robinson — could never be criticised for tottering into staid middle age.

Not that all these bright young films fall slave to current fashions. What could be more out of step than a film whose cast lounge in Park Avenue apartments, costumed in the full regalia of evening dress or debutante gown, preening themselves on their social status, and discussing affairs of the heart, or Jane Austen, or even the opinions of the literary critic Lionel Trilling?

This is the world of *Metropolitan*, an awesomely assured film from Whit Stillman, making his cinema bow after assorted experience in publishing and journalism.

Stillman shares the same privileged background as his elegant, talkative young characters, though he is able to view them with ironic detachment: the effect is almost as though a New York story by Henry James or Edith Wharton was being slyly filmed by Woody Allen. The action unfolds over Christmas, in a fairy-tale Manhattan glow with seasonal decorations. Our guide through the labyrinth of strict social rituals is a grumpy-headed Princeton student, at the beginning an outsider with severe socio-political qualms and a rented tuxedo, though he



Wicked comedy of manners: strip-poker becomes an ingredient of the social ritual on Park Avenue in Whit Stillman's *Metropolitan*

soon buys his own and lounges along with the best.

The director steers a cast of refreshing newcomers through his sinuous dialogue with magical ease, creating a wickedly subtle comedy of manners. More of this delight in November, when the film gets its commercial release in Britain.

Other American films in the New Directors slot are doing little for Uncle Sam: Mark Townsend Harris's *Nocturne*, a drippy New York story of a disillusioned gay, was a tedious dinosaur, misnamed from the 'Sixties, while John Saffron's *In a Pig's Eye* squandered the potential of its anti-smoking stance with some hideously broad buffoonery. Those seeking contemplative, poetic cinema found refuge, ironically, in the Middle East. Saïed Ebrahimi's *The Flame of Pomegranate in the Cave*, from Iran, proved as mysterious as its title, conjuring up scenes from the past life of an old man found dying in the street from a heart attack. The man was a humble calligrapher by trade, and Ebrahimi's own images, deployed more as symbols than narrative building blocks, shared the exquisite delicacy of the best calligraphy.

And what of Britain? We fielded the festival's opening film, a brooding, violent adaptation of William Mottram's novel *The*

Big Man, with the excellent Liam Neeson as the Scottish artisan sucked into bare-knuckle boxing and Glasgow's criminal underworld. Director David Leland, bouncing back after his unfortunate Hollywood film *Checking Out*, proves he is not just a man for quirky comedies, and lends scenes effectively with gritty atmosphere. The film opens in London next week.

A clutch of recent British productions are competing for another prize, named in honour of the late and glorious Michael Powell: the design of this award, we are promised, uses the famous arrow and bull's eye logo that rang up the curtain on Powell and Pressburger productions.

Gillies MacKinnon, who showed spunk and promise last year with his adaptation of Derek Jarman's *The Garden*, which received its world premiere last night. This is Jarman in *The Last of England* mood, flinging at the astounded viewer a dense potpourri of private obsessions and images. The Passion story provides the peg, with the Holy Land replaced by the bleakness, pylons and pebbles of Dunquerque, where the director lives: the title refers both to Gethsemane and the garden Jarman has created in the coastal wilderness. Sometimes a Christ figure stalks in white robes; at other moments he is replaced by two young men, tarred, feathered



Brooding: Liam Neeson in David Leland's *The Big Man* the classroom ambience from British cinema's agit-prop wing.

None of the British entries can approach the visual bravura of Derek Jarman's *The Garden*, which received its world premiere last night. This is Jarman in *The Last of England* mood, flinging at the astounded viewer a dense potpourri of private obsessions and images. The Passion story provides the peg, with the Holy Land replaced by the bleakness, pylons and pebbles of Dunquerque, where the director lives: the title refers both to Gethsemane and the garden Jarman has created in the coastal wilderness. Sometimes a Christ figure stalks in white robes; at other moments he is replaced by two young men, tarred, feathered

and scourged for their homosexuality. Jarman's theme is the historical link between religion and the repression of gay sex; not every variation in this complex work succeeds or can even be penetrated by outsiders, but there is never any doubt that Jarman remains ferociously talented.

My Private War offered another feat of personal film-making. Two West German documentary makers, Harriet Eder and Thomas Kufus, somehow rounded up six amateur cameramen who served in the Wehrmacht and filmed the advance on Russia in 1941. We see their surviving footage; we hear their comments as they look back with an eerie mixture of guilt, nostalgia and serene complacency. One of them claims that his only regret is that he never filmed along the Western Front: "Seeing is seeing," the soldier-tourist pronounces, even when the sights include a line of Jews strung up, or human and animal corpses mired in a pit.

The film shows the banalities of war along with the atrocities: the daily Wehrmacht round of eating, head-shaving, and horseplay; the quick refreshing dip in the Black Sea. In packaging this unique material, Eder and Kufus avoid gloating with hindsight; the old soldiers' footage tells its own sorry, fascinating story.

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Dance coup at Alhambra

THE Alhambra Theatre in Bradford has scored something of a coup in bringing the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre to Britain for the first time in 17 years. Bradford is scheduled to be the only British venue for the black dance troupe on its autumn tour of the Soviet Union and France. The Alhambra, considered one of the finest touring theatres in the country, has wasted no time in announcing this coup as the beginning of a much higher profile for the refurbished Edwardian venue. "In dance terms, we have set ourselves the objective of introducing major international companies into the programme," says Anamaria Wills, the Alhambra's general manager.

While London has spent the past five years arguing over a dance house, Bradford has pushed ahead with plans to turn the Alhambra into the North of England venue for dance. The theatre, built in 1914, re-opened in 1986 after an £8.5 million refurbishment that paid particular attention to the special requirements for dance. Shortly after it re-opened, the Alhambra played host to Rudolf Nureyev, celebrating the 25th anniversary of his defection to the West, and later, London Festival Ballet (now English National Ballet) premiered Natalia Makarova's production of *Swan Lake* there.

The Alvin Ailey company, which performs at the Alhambra from October 2 to 6, will present a mixed bill of works that includes *Revelations* and *Night Creature*, two of the most popular dances choreographed by Ailey, who died last December.

Bogart by dark

KENWOOD lakeside, the elegant Hampstead Heath landscape that provides the backdrop for outdoor symphonic concerts during the summer, is venturing into cinematic territory next week. *Casablanca* will be shown on a giant screen at 8.30pm on September 1, in a venture mounted jointly by the National Film Theatre and the sponsors, Cinema. With 10,000 watts of sound equipment in action, there should be no problem about hearing Sam play it again; slightly more problematical may be the organisers' "light-hearted attempt" to turn Kenwood itself into 1940s Casablanca. The audience, expected to number 8,000, is promised a reconstruction of Rick's Bar, Bogart and Bergman lookalikes re-enacting scenes from the movie, and the "sounds and smells of the authentic Moroccan market".

Courting points

ART Buchwald, the New York columnist, continues his litigious assault on the American film

BRIEFING

industry. Earlier this year he won a case against Paramount, in which he argued that the Eddie Murphy hit, *Coming to America*, was based on his own story, *King For A Day*. That victory under his belt, Buchwald stepped back into the fray, demanding satisfaction on the issue of money owed to him by virtue of his net profit participation points. Sometimes referred to as "monkey points", these guarantee a share of the profits after a film has broken even. But despite having taken in the region of \$120 million (£64 million) at the box office, Paramount maintains that *Coming to America* failed to break even, partly because of the heavy advance payment to Murphy. Buchwald was not so easily fobbed off, however, and neither, it appears, is the judge in the case, who did not accept Paramount's version of the accounts, and demanded "nuts and bolts" facts before appointing his own auditor.

Home at last

SOME of Romania's most famous artistic exiles are returning to work in Bucharest, now that Ceausescu's "committee of social education and culture" has been abolished. The committee had effectively proscribed much professional performance by defining socialist culture as only that which included mass participation. Now the theatre director Andrei Serban, last seen in Britain in February marshalling the massive forces of the Royal Opera's *Prince Igor*, is poised to become the new director of the National Theatre in Bucharest, having chosen that post in preference to the directorship of the Romanian State Opera, which was also offered to him. Serban, 46, has been living outside Romania for 21 years and is now an American citizen.

An even longer exile was broken when the conductor Sergiu Celibidache returned to Bucharest this year. Celibidache, once a serious rival to Karajan for the principal conductorship of the Berlin Philharmonic, has won something of a cult status in the West for his eccentric interpretations and vast demands for rehearsal time, but he has not worked in Romania since the post-war Communist takeover.



Going home: Andrei Serban

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PROMS

Goehr plunders Paradise to inspire his new creation

Nothing less than the process of creation itself was celebrated at the Proms at the end of last week. Alexander Goehr went straight to the point. He plundered *Paradise Lost* for words to inspire his own creation, a scene for orchestra, mezzo soprano and tenor, which isolates Eve's dream of her strange and sensuous falling flight with Satan.

Eve Dreams in Paradise was first heard about 18 months ago in Birmingham, where Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra had luxuriated in the physicality of Goehr's vocal arioso, the unstable, febrile orchestral figures, the glinting lights of glockenspiel, harp and alto flute. Matthias Bamert, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, gave a performance which could not match the electricity of the work's premiere (and this may say something about the work itself, but was still more finely disciplined and more poetically paced. Amel Gurnon and Neil Mackie vividly drew attention to the skill of Goehr's daunting attempts to tame the weight and measure of Milton.

Goehr's London premiere was followed on Thursday evening by a work from his father's teacher, Arnold Schoenberg, itself a comment on creation and re-creation. The process of orchestrating Brahms' Piano Quartet No 1 tied Schoenberg over a period when his own pen threatened temporarily to run dry, and the sense of regeneration and sheer enjoyment in the reworking rang out from its brilliant string harmonies and its trombone glissandos.

Remaking of a more complex and taxing nature was to follow on Friday. What was billed was Janáček's Violin Concerto: what we heard was, unmistakably and chillingly, the plangent cries of the human spirit from the composer's last great Dostoevsky opera, *From the House of the Dead*.

Janáček had been engaged on sketches for a violin concerto when he became pre-occupied with the opera. The ideas which he integrated so powerfully into the overture (and into the scene with the arrival of Petrucci) were pieced together by two Czech scholars, Milos Štěpán and Leoš Fuhrman, first played in a short, single-movement form in Brno, Czechoslovakia, in 1988 and now presented to London by Tasmin Little, the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera and Sir Charles Mackerras.

To anyone familiar with the opera, the resonances set up by this brief interlude of stratospheric and vibrant instrumental combinations were piercing and provocative. To the innocent ear, the work cannot have failed to engage at its own level. Fitch and pulse, in their most extreme manifestations, and juxtapositions, Janáček's timpani heartbeats and fragile moments of song fuse together in this "Pilgrimage of a Soul", a subtle piece which will doubtless provoke still more musicalological detective work.

The same Prom had begun with Sir Charles conducting a performance of Mozart's "Prague" Symphony, so full of delighted perceptions of phrasing and in-

strumental colour that it could not be passed over as a mere curtain-raiser. A cunning overture to a programme which also included Radoslav Kvapi's valiant performance of Martinů's curious conglomerate, the "Incantation" Fourth Piano Concerto, it also nicely underlined Sir Charles' own lifetime of work with both Czech composers and with Mozart himself.

At last came *The Creation* itself. Sunday night's performance of Haydn's oratorio was not the great crescendo of achievement it could have been, simply because its most potent exponents, the BBC Symphony Chorus, seemed on the whole more concerned with musical literalism than with the spirit of wonder and exuberance which fires the work.

The playing of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Lothar Zagrosek, and the singing of Margaret Marshall were the glories of the evening. Where they made chamber music together, as in Gabriel and Uriel's quartet with clarinet and bassoon, or in Gabriel's own solo with David Butt's magic flute, the performance rose to a new level. Where Kurt Streit's Uriel, elegant and musically, was something less than a ray of divine light, and where Andreas Schmidt's Raphael/Adam told his tale soberly with not a trace of divine awe, much less divine humour, Marshall's soprano spread its wings with the creatures of the air, and delighted in putting the excitement of risk above safety of the middle way.

HILARY FINCH



Engaging on the innocent ear: Tasmin Little, who made her Proms debut in Janáček's Violin Concerto

CRITICS' CHOICE: CONCERTS AND RECITALS

CONCERTS

ACT OF CONTRITION: Following James MacMillan's pre-concert talk (8.15pm), his *Confession of Isobel Gowdie* is a commission premiered by the BBC Scottish Symphony under its chief conductor Larry Markwardt. The composer calls it an act of contrition for a woman executed as a witch in 1682, sounding "the soul of Scotland" in orchestral music wrought from folk-song and Gaelic psalms into his own distinctive idiom. Smetana's Fourth Symphony and the Korean-born Dong-Suk Kang playing the Sibelius Violin Concerto complete the programme. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9998), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

NATIONAL YOUTH MUSICIANS: Sir Colin Davis conducts the select talent of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra first in a British Telecom Meetings Prom, Sir Michael Tippett's *Divertimento on "Selling the Round"*, adapted from one Elizabethan reign to another, and Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony (No 4 in A), to enclose Mozart's deeply principled C minor Piano Concerto (K 491), with Imogen Cooper a dedicated soloist.

Snapshots, Suffolk (0800 585789), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £2.50-£12.50. Same programme also at London Proms, Thurs, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12.

LLOYD AT WORCESTER: George Lloyd, the Cornish composer to whom celebrity came late as a doyen of romanticism, conducts the British premiere of his Symphony No 12 with the BBC Philharmonic. The Festival Chorus, under Donald Hunt, follow with *Songs of Farewell*, settings by Derek Walcott, and Elgar's *Coronation Ode* with Lillian Watson, Sally Burgess, Malcolm Davies, Peter Salvage the soloists. Worcester Cathedral, Worcester (0905 21911/25511), Fri, 8pm, £2-£15.

SALZBURG MOZARTIAN: Thomas Zehetmair, the Salzburg-born violinist who made his debut there at the age of 16, is soloist/conductor with the Philharmonika at the first of two British Telecom Meetings Proms. He plays two Mozart Concertos, K 216 in G and K 211 in D, and afterwards directs Symphony No 29 in A (K 201). Snape Maltings (as above), Sat, 7.30pm, £2.50-£12.50. Also Sun, in more Mozart plus Hartmann's *Concerto Funebre*, 7.30pm.

ROTTERDAM TO EDINBURGH: First of two Edinburgh Festival concerts by the Rotterdam Philharmonic under its American chief conductor, James Conlon. For the Marconi centenary year he picks the Czech composer's unusual Concerto for Double String Orchestra, Piano and Timpani with Peter Donohoe and Randy Max the soloists and follows it with the richly descriptive and celebratory *A Hero's Life* (Richard Strauss). Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, (031-225 5756), Sat, 8pm, £5-£18. Also Dvořák's *Requiem*, with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus and soloists, Sun, 8pm.

RECITALS

12TH-CENTURY SETTING: Boris Beresovsky, the 20-year-old Russian pianist and winner of the 1989 Tchaikovsky Piano Competition, gives a recital of Beethoven, Schumann and Balakirev as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Festival. Not only was Beresovsky one of the most memorable musicians at the last Leeds Piano Competition, but the concert hall in which he now plays has the distinction of being translated by William Randolph Hearst from his home in Waltham to the millionaire's European home in the 12th-century castle of St Donat's which now hosts the festival. The Bradenstock Hall, St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan (0446 794948), Wed, 7.30pm, £5-£9.

DAYS AT DARTINGTON: The Kontra Sing Quartet, renowned for its performance of 20th-century music, join force with their compatriot, Per Nørgård, the Danish composer in residence, for a recital of the Quarteto Breve, his 5 major Quartets and his "Tintinabulary" Quartet at the Dartington International Summer School. Great Hall, Dartington, near Totnes, Devon (0803 863073), tonight, 8.15pm, £6.50.

HONG KONG EXPERIMENTS: The Purcell Room is the venue for an "Inter-Arts Week" focusing on Hong Kong. Music, drama and movement will respond to and interpret the character of the place, and this evening starts with music by three former members of the Guildhall Ensemble, namely musician Nicola Ellis, artist Ruth Coffer and dancer Stuart Leslie. Tomorrow's programme features singers Michael Rippon and Mary Weigold in an electro-acoustic music drama, and Thursday and Friday repeat the two programmes in the same order.

COCHRAN THE PRIEST AND ANGEL OF THE AGONY

In this vivid musical vision of the Christian Everyman's death and his soul's last judgment narrated in Cardinal Newman's verses. Worcester Cathedral (as left), Sat, 8pm, £2-£15.

ROZHOZSTVENSKY RETURNS: Gennady Rozhdestvensky returns for the first of two Proms with the BBC Symphony, of which he was formerly chief conductor. Yo-Yo Ma is the outstanding soloist in Dvořák's Concerto, after which the grandly majestic *Te Deum* by Berlioz combines the forces of three choruses with Laurence Dale the solo tenor. Albert Hall (as left), Sun, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12. Also Bank Holiday Mon, in Schubert, Offenbach and Johann Strauss, 7.30pm.

ZUKERMAN IN LONDON: After their Edinburgh Festival appearance, Pinchas Zukerman accompanies the English Chamber Orchestra to London for a programme featuring him as violinist/conductor in Mozart's A major Concerto (K 219). He directs Stravinsky's exhilarating *Dances Concertantes* to begin the concert, and ends with Mozart's Symphony No 39 in E flat (K 543). Great Hall, 9th Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, 7.45pm, £5-£18.

PURCELL ROOM, South Bank, London SE1 (071-828 8800), tonight, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 8pm. Programme continues Sat and Sun, 3.15pm and 8pm, £7 each concert.

FESTIVAL ARUNDEL: Pier Adams, recorder, and Howard Beach, harpsichord, offer a coffee concert of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Krieger and Debussy as part of this year's Arundel Festival. Parish Church, Arundel, Sussex (0903 883474), Mon, 11.15am, £3.50 (including coffee at 10.30am).

CZECH CELLO: Steven Isserlis, one of Britain's most distinctive and dramatic young cellists, has his own Edinburgh Festival recital at one of the morning's high-profile chamber concerts.

Accompanied by Peter Evans, he plays with the festival's Czech theme in Janáček's *Povodň* and Martinů's Sonata No 2, and adds Bach's Third Solo Cello Suite and Schubert's irresistible "Arpeggione" Sonata. Queen's Hall, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5756), Wed, 11am, £3-£8.

HILARY FINCH

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BBC
6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Paul
Burden and the team 8.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But First... Entertainment for
younger viewers, featuring with Belle
and Sebastian (9.05) Why Don't
You... 7 ideas on how to keep
children out of mischief (9.10)
10.00 News and weather followed by The
Jesters, Cartoon series 10.30
Playdays (9)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Poetry read by the
pupils of the Moor Park High School,
Reading (9)
11.00 News and weather followed by
Pascable Kingdom. American drama
series starring Lindsay Wagner as the
director of the Los Angeles county
zoo. Today, Rebecca has trouble
with cats running wild
12.00 News and weather followed by The
Garden Party. Actress Honor Blackman
joins the show from the Glasgow
Botanic Gardens. Robert Kirby-Silk
takes agriculture minister Baroness
Trumpington to lunch and there is an
analysis of what makes good tomato
chutney 12.55 Regional news and
weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip
Hayton. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) 1.50 Biding
Butter. Tony Butler joins us by bicycle
as he reaches journey's end and on
his mammoth ride across the Midlands
2.20 Film: Lull in Love (1955). A
sophisticated and witty comedy in which
playwright Lily Wynn (Maggie Smith)
decides that Fitzroy (Christopher
Plummer), her ageing actor

husband, is unsuitable as the romantic
lead in her next film. He must
persuade her otherwise. Directed by
Carol Maik
4.00 Red and Blue. Two Plasticine
characters battle it out in this animated
double bill 4.10 The All New
Popeye Show. Cartoon adventure with
the approach-ach here (9.45) The
Really Wild Show. Award-winning
children's educational programme.
With Terry Nutkins, Nicole Davies and
Chris Packham (9)
5.00 Newround 5.10 Steel Riders. Third
in an eight-part action thriller from New
Zealand. Sandra's father is arrested
when the police find an emerald.
(Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours. (9) (Cee-fax). Northern
Ireland. Sportswide. 5.40 Inside Ulster
8.00 O'Clock News with Anna Ford
and Andrew Harvey. Weather
8.30 Regional News Magazines. Wales:
Wales Today; Northern Ireland:
Neighbours
7.00 Last of the Summer Wine. Getting
Barry Higher in the World. Roy Clarke's
gentle-paced comedy about three old
rogues in the Yorkshire Dales.
Seymour tries to make a child's kite
(9) (Cee-fax)
7.30 EastEnders. (Cee-fax)
8.00 May to December: Fools Rush In.
Re-run of Paul A. Mendelson's likeable
romantic comedy with Anton
Rodgers as a Scottish solicitor in love
with a young woman (Eve
Metheson) (9) (Cee-fax)
8.30 The Les Dennis Laughter Show.
Another helping of variable comedy
sketches with support from Martin
Daniels, Lisa Maxwell and Mark Walker
(9) (Cee-fax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael
Buerk. Regional news and weather

9.30 Film: The Towering Inferno (1974).
The archetypal 1970s disaster movie in
which an all-star cast, headed by
Steve McCusker and Paul Newman,
battle to save the world's tallest
skyscraper from being razed to the
ground. Their attempts are
hampers by an assortment of party-
goers who are stranded at the top.

Paul Newman: stars as the architect (9.30pm)
Sizzling action from directors John
Guillarmu and Irwin Allen. (Cee-fax)
Northern Ireland: Gales. 10.20-
1.00am Film: The Towering Inferno
12.10am Weather

ITV LONDON
6.00 TV-am
9.25 Home and the Masters of the
Universe (9.50) Thames News and
weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget (9)
10.25 Vicky the Viking 10.50 News
headlines
10.55 Treasure Island in Outer Space
11.50 Thames News and weather
11.55 The Adventures of Tintin (9) 12.00
Porky Pig 12.05 Rod, Janie and Freddy (9)
12.25 Home and Away. 12.55 Thames
News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet.
Weather
1.20 Coronation Street. (9) 1.50 A
Country Practice 2.20 Take the High
Road
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Rippon
hosts the quiz-the-occupation panel
game 3.15 News headlines 3.20
Thames News headlines 3.25 Families
3.55 Turn on to T-Bag (9) 4.20 Under the
Bedclothes 4.45 Scooby Doo. (9) 5.10
Blockbusters
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong.
Weather
5.55 Thames Help presented by Jackie
Sawchell
6.00 Home and Away. (9) 6.30 Thames
News and weather
7.00 Emmerdale. (Oracle)
7.30 Thames Action. Three families living
in bed and breakfast accommodation
present a report on the plight of the
homeless, recording their findings on
mini video cameras

6.00 The Bill: Vendetta. More unorthodox
policing from DI Burnside, trying to sort
out a family feud that has erupted into
violence (Oracle)
8.30 The Magistrate. The final instalment
of the Mafiosi-busting mini-series starring
the iconic Nero Paolo's search for his
son. Robbe has been successful, but
Paolo is disturbed to learn that his
suspicions about Robbe's illegal
activities were correct. Meanwhile,
Clare and Roger continue their
investigation into the Inkerman
Foundation (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet
and Sandy Gall. Weather 10.30 Thames
News and weather

Timely history of chemical warfare (10.30pm)
10.35 Viewpoint 90: Fog of War.
CHOICE. Given Iraq's recent use
of chemical weapons against Iran and
against its own people, Viewpoint
90: Fog of War offers a timely summary

of the brief and terrible history of
chemical warfare. Poison gas was
introduced in the first world war to
such appalling effect that it played no
part in the second world war. Since
then chemical weapons, although
developed, manufactured and stored,
have never been used in war,
except by the Americans in Vietnam
and by Iraq. Until recently, both the
United States and the Soviet Union
have prevailed on the subject of
such weapons while possessing
enough to destroy the world several
times over. Now, however, both are
intent on reducing their stock piles - to
just enough to wipe us all out once.
Standard policy between the
superpowers as to the use of
chemical weapons has been one of
"after you" - so far effective - but
with both Iraq and perhaps Libya now
holding these weapons their future
use hangs even more in the balance
11.35 Prisoner: Call Block H.
12.30am Room for Change. The
Bedroom/Bathroom. Three designers
are asked to create an open plan
bedroom/bathroom. Presented by Peter
Leonard (9)
1.00 Video View with Mariella Frostrup
1.30 Banks and Copstick at the Festival.
Monroe Banks and Kate Copstick
report on the more unusual events
at the Edinburgh Festival
2.30 Donahue. Phil Donahue is joined by
Burt Lancaster 3.30 Quiz Night with
Rusling 4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne
Leuchars. Ends 6.00


BBC 2
7.10 Open University. Genes, Goals and
Supergoals. Ends 7.35
9.00 Mastermind 1980 presented by
Magnum Magnusson (9)
9.30 Film: Mrs Miniver (1942). b/w
starring Greer Garson and Walter
Pidgeon. Second world war morale-
booster, which not only caught the
popular mood but won seven Oscars
including best actress for Garson as the
idealised housewife surviving the war
in her English country garden.
William Wyler directs
11.40 Chronicle: The Cottage. What a
simple Victorian cottage in the hamlet of
Walderton in the Sussex Weald tells us
about the people who once lived in it
(9)
12.30 Worldwide: National Geographic -
on Assignment. Taking pictures for the
National Geographic magazine must be
the traveller's dream. Today's
programme looks at two
photographers on assignment, one in
Yugoslavia and the other in Spain (9)
1.20 Charlie Chalk. Animated children's
adventure (9)
1.35 Sign Extra. An opportunity to see
The Lowdown - Fighting for Breath with
sign language and subtitles (9)
2.00 News and weather followed by
Great Britons. The lives behind
legendary names are told by their
biographers. David Howarth gives a
day-by-day account of the
extraordinary private life of Britain's
greatest ever scientist, Monod
Nelson (9)
3.00 News and weather followed by
Anticrises: Prince Franz Josef of
Liechtenstein. Sandwiched
between Austria and Switzerland, the

small country of Liechtenstein has
been ruled by Prince Franz Josef II since
1938. Robert Lacey discovers how
the community has been transformed
into Europe's richest (9)
3.50 News and weather. Regional news
and weather
4.00 Film: The Moonraker (1958) starring
George Baker and Sylvia Syms.
Swashbuckling adventure set in a
17th-century merry England as a
dashing young highwayman rescues
Charles, heir to the throne,
from the clutches of the
Roundheads. John Le Mesurier makes a
surprisingly effective Cromwell.
Directed by David MacDonald
5.20 Town Portraits. John Grundy visits
Bellingham in Northumberland (9)
5.30 Gardeners' World. The merits of fly-
catching plants and an update on the
compost experiments (9)
6.00 Film: Our Man in Marrakesh (1956)
(Concept by David MacDonald, Santa
Barbara, Herbert Ross, Klaus Kinski, Terry
Thomas and Wilfrid Hyde White. Tapid
gangster spoof in which a courier
willing to pay \$2 million in return for
information hides among a busload
of Moroccan tourists. Directed by Don
Simpson
7.35 Biko. Biko and the Medium.
Vintage comedy starring Phil Silvers.
Biko stages a séance for Sergeant
Ritzik to advise him on how to spend his
money (9)
8.00 Hear-Say. The last programme in the
series looks at what appears to be a
paradox. Britain's black youth are
alleged to be less ambitious
because they lack role-models. Yet
black stars in sport, entertainment and
politics are among the most
admired. Jacqui Harper and Colin
Charles investigate

9.30 Wildlife Showcases: Mud Matters.
Industrial and agricultural development,
fishing activities and proposals for
tidal barrages are swallowing up rich
feeding grounds for hundreds of
thousands of birds. The last of five
programmes by film-makers from
around the world explores the increasing
threat to Britain's estuaries. (Cee-fax)
9.00 A Bit of Fry and Laurie. Superior
comedies from the comedy duo of
Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie,
including shockingly explicit gardening
tips (9) (Cee-fax)
9.30 Roads to Nowhere: The Colour of
the Cat. The last of four programmes
looking at the rise and fall of science
and technology in China from ancient
times to the present. In 1978, Deng
Xiaoping introduced economic reforms
in the belief that western technology
could thrive in China without political
reform. Believing political change is
essential to technological development,
Fang Lian, a Chinese scientist living
in exile in Cambridge, was proved right
by the events which took place in
Tiananmen Square. (Cee-fax)
10.20 Mini Sagas: The Best Ever Nuclear
Fall-Out Shelter. Last in the series of
short dramas starring Mick Ford and
Bill Walker. What was that saying about
"the best-laid plans..." (9) (Cee-fax)
10.30 Newswatch with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 Edinburgh Nights. Clive Anderson
tours the festival's comedy circuit. Kirby
Wark watches the homeless make
their debut on stage. The Danish
company Hotel Pro Forma perform in
a new play, in concert, the
cream of contemporary Scottish
composers
11.55 Weather
12.00am Open University. Education: Time to
Learn. Ends 12.30am

CHANNEL 4
6.00 Noah's Ark. Journeys down the
Andean Rivers
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Footage of
stunning landscapes set to a relaxing
musical background
11.00 As It Happens. Michael Groth and
his camera crew head north, recording
whatever and whoever they discover
in their travels around Scotland
12.00 Way of the Lakes. Tony Warburton
samples the delights of one of Britain's
greatest National Parks, the Lake
District, where water-skiing, pony-
trekking and birdwatching are some
of the activities on offer to visitors who
want to do more than admire the
scenery
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and
business news service
1.00 Sesame Street (9)
2.00 Channel Four Racing. Brough Scott
introduces the day's races from York,
with commentary by Graham Gould.
Includes the Eagle Lane Acomb Stakes
(2.05), Racecourse Handicap (2.25),
Juddmonte International Stakes
(3.10), Great Voltigeur Stakes (3.45),
and the Dowsing Handicap (4.15)
4.30 Countdown. The weekly quiz
words and numbers quiz, hosted by
Richard Whitley
5.00 The Long River (b/w)
5.30 Noah's Ark: Lucas National Park.
(Teletext)
6.00 Sumo. The round-up of the
action in the 1989 Autumn Grand Sumo
Tournament, from Tokyo. With
commentary by Lyle Watson (9)
6.30 More and More. Comedy with the
frantic alien from Ork. Starring Robin
Williams and Pam Dawber
7.00 Channel Four News with Jon Snow
7.50 Comment followed by weather
8.00 Landscapes: Twenty Long
Winters. Tim Preese presents the third

in a seven-part series, filmed from
the air, showing how some of Britain's
most spectacular landscapes
features were created. The week, he
looks at the effect of 20 or more
advances and retreats by polar ice
thousands of feet thick on the land
which lies beneath it (9). (Teletext)
8.30 Cooking with Mollie. Culinary
genius Anton Moscatelli prepares a
traditional Sunday lunch of roast
beef and Yorkshire pudding. (Teletext)
9.00 The Thatcher Audit.
CHOICE. In a series of three
personal documentaries, economic
journalists give Mrs Thatcher her ten
year report. John Plender is not
favourable. Initial hopes
undimmed by ideological obsessions
and policy flaws. Favourite hits
and misses from the period include.
Bang the Bell, Jack, I'm on the Bus, The
Lady's Not for Turning, HP Happy,
Frittsman Shuffle, Property Boom-
Boom-Bang, Pop Capitalism and Union
Blues. Back-up is by the Fat Cats (a
species vulnerable only to the Rotwell
factor). Best bit is from the one that
says: "The British public still has a lot
to learn about share ownership.
Most of them are still very far off the
bottom of the learning curve."
Norman Tebbit murmurs, with more of
an air of regret than he perhaps
intended. "After all, one has to deal with
the people in a democracy."
Plender's attack includes the illusory
nature of privatisation and the
government's failure to plan for the
industrial future with an adequate
supply of skilled labour. (Teletext)
10.00 Film: Kids Like Thees (1987)
starring Tyne Daly, Richard Crenna and
Marti Matulis. Decadent acted and
directed by John Huston. Based on
the true story of a family's
attempts to give their newborn son
Alex, a victim of Down's Syndrome,
a normal life. Directed by Georg Stanford
Brown

11.50 Boulez and the Twentieth Century:
Rhythm.
CHOICE. "Twentieth century
music remains an alien and
inaccessible sphere," intones a
senious young woman at the start of this
new six-part series. Awopobosola?
No, the pink-plank of avant-garde
music, here given a guided tour by
the telegraphic face of such music.
Pierre Boulez. Boulez and the Twentieth
Century appears accessible enough at
first, a demonstration of the
evolution of rhythm in 20th century
music - characterized today by
irregularity of beat and mobility of tempo
with reference to Stravinsky's
Concerto, Carter's Kreuzspiel and
Stockhausen's Pieces for Timpani.
So far so straightforward, but soon the
casual viewer is likely to feel lost,
and the intolerant no better disposed.
Boulez - "without being too
philosophical" - moves rapidly into
difficult terrain, made more difficult
by subtitles (for this is a bought-in
programme). "Length is a sort of
anthem of note values which is
absolutely impossible to count
physically." Unlucky sheep

Pierre Boulez: avant-garde music (11.50pm)
12.50am Tanya Tikanam - Ancient Heart.
The melancholy singer-songwriter in
concert on Bromley Island off the
Norwegian coast (9)
1.50 Curtis Mayfield. Recorded at Ronnie
Scott's in 1988 (9). Ends 2.55

RADIO 1
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FROM GIRARD STEICHEN IN BONN

Kuwait banks on its assets

The government continues to hold cabinet meetings every Sunday under the chairmanship of Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah. The Crown Prince, Kuwait also continues to be represented in virtually all international bodies, despite Iraq's claim that it no longer exists.

EC bends rules, page 7



FROM MARY DEJEVSKY
IN MOSCOW

He accused the central government of "very cleverly" ignoring documents passed by the Russian parliament on economic independence and disregarding the Russian Federation's interests. Mr Ryzhkov's "extreme income-

His praise for Mr Gorbachev and his policies suggested that a possible alliance had been formed between the Russian Federation

Viktor Yaroshenko, the Russian Federation's minister for economic relations, said that foreign countries and banks should con-

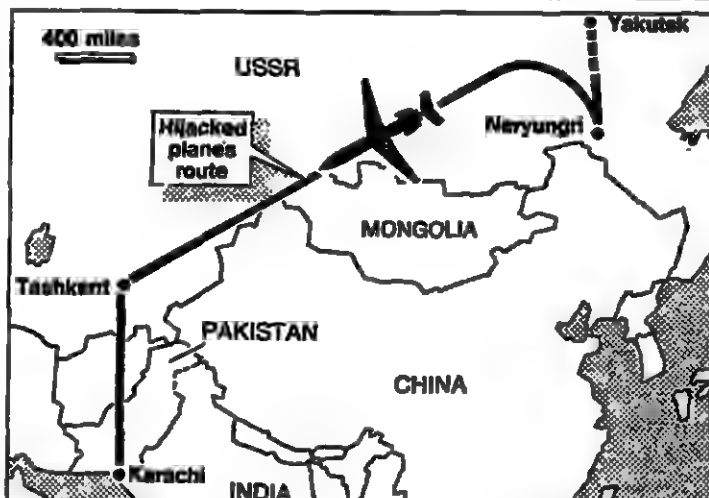
able. Referring to the recent agreement between the Soviet state company for diamond marketing and a Swiss affiliate of the South African firm, De Beers

At the weekend, the Russian justice minister, Nikolai Fedorov, complained in a newspaper interview that the Soviet government had dumped gold worth more than \$1 billion (£520 million) on Western markets in less than two weeks.

The TU 154 plane, carrying 29 passengers and nine crew members, was originally refused permission to land at Karachi's Quaid-e-Azam international airport. But the pilot said that he only had five minutes' of fuel left and was finally given permission. The airport was sealed off for two hours.

The Soviet authorities have two weeks to take Mikhail Varfolomeyev, aged 20, into custody, a Justice Ministry statement said. He had hijacked an Aeroflot airliner on an internal flight from

Mr. Fedorov said that the gold sales, like the De Beers deal, ought to have been subject to the Russian Federation's sovereignty declaration which deems all natural resources in the republic to belong to it and not to the central government.



A 28x28 crossword puzzle grid. The grid is composed of white squares for letters and black squares for empty space. The numbers 1 through 28 are placed in the starting squares of the words, indicating the row and column for each word's beginning. The numbers are distributed as follows: 1 (1,1), 2 (1,2), 3 (1,3), 4 (1,4), 5 (1,5), 6 (1,6), 7 (1,7), 8 (1,8), 9 (2,1), 10 (2,6), 11 (3,1), 12 (3,5), 13 (4,1), 14 (4,2), 15 (4,5), 16 (4,6), 17 (4,7), 18 (5,1), 19 (5,6), 20 (5,8), 21 (6,1), 22 (6,3), 23 (6,6), 24 (6,7), 25 (6,8), 26 (7,1), 27 (7,5), 28 (7,7).

ACROSS

1 Opener to name one or two flats, perhaps (3,9).
9 Royal turocoat found in simple story (9).
10 A king – one in favour (5).
11 Padre's ignoble part in surrender (6).
12 A flyer starting elementary training requires strict disciplinarian (8).
13 Withdraw from French sector (6).
15 Note bound to be of sound quality (8).
18 Alcohol mixture with mature body (8).
19 Working the old way – in agreement (6).
21 State in Spain or Italy of alert (8).
23 The foreign crowd returned to YAGP (6).

DOWN

26 Midnight excursion around the bog's back (5).
27 College to choose in the USA (9).
28 Literary lady's luck begins to change (4,8).

DOWN

1 Affectionate Russian relatives (7).
2 Gets out in the county (5).
3 A guru in LA moving to an address in Washington (9).
4 Climbing plant without a fastening device (4).
5 Young person to generate trouble (8).
6 Proper set up, with great potential (5).
7 Girl in taxi is using it for a trip (8).
8 Finally anxious to make new

Solution to Puzzle No 18,377

C	R	E	A	T	E	C	H	A	T	T	E	R
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	E	A				
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	E	M	E	N		
E	A	S	O	F	O							
I	S	T	O	L	E	A	T	E	R	N		
T	A	B	E	R	E	G	R	A	T	E	S	
E	A	S	O									
D	E	T	E	N	T	I	O	N				
E	S	S	I	R	I							
F	I	N	A	L	I	T	E	N	I	E	D	
C	O	N	T	A	I	N	T	E				
E	T	A	G	E	R	O	F	T	E	N		
R	O	S	E	S	O	E						

14 Ending voluntary support sounds indecent (8).
 16 Rigid code in Castile (9).
 17 A giver, for example, in distress (8).
 20 Iron lady's headgear? (6).
 20 Christmas band of record you'll hear first (7).
 22 Catherine, perhaps, ends the stanza (5).
 24 Animal caught by soldiers on both sides of the Atlantic (5).
 25 It's known to everyone, said Jing (4).

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

YUFT
a. Fringes of the west
b. Hair cut into a crest
c. Russia leather

GORP
a. To squint
b. A fatty
c. Go Rest in Peace

DES RES
a. The thing in hand

b. With a criminal intent
c. A nice house

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-

hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	738
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23	73c
M-ways/roads M23- M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740

North-east England.....	743
Scotland.....	744
Northern Ireland.....	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 2 seconds (week and weekend 5p)

seconds (peak and standard) 3p
for 12 seconds (off peak).

south-west of Scotland will start the day cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle and fog around coasts and hills. These conditions will spread to most other areas north of the Wash to the Bristol Channel. Areas further south, although becoming cloudy, should stay dry. It will be warmer in most parts. Outlook: dry in most areas, especially in the south.

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=druzzle; fg=fog; s=sun; s=sleet; sf=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain		Sun		Thurs		Fri		Sat	
		hrs	in	C	F	hrs	in	C	F
Scarborough		2.8	.39	15	55	rain			
Hurston		1.7	.90	21	70	thunder			
Craster		1.8	.16	21	70	thunder			

[illegible]

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=druzzle; fg=fog; s=sun; s=sleet; sf=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain		Sun		Thurs		Fri		Sat	
		hrs	in	C	F	hrs	in	C	F
Scarborough		2.8	.39	15	55	rain			
Hurston		1.7	.90	21	70	thunder			
Croston		1.8	.16	21	70	thunder			

[illegible]

Saturday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 21C (70F); min 6pm to 6 am, 14C (57F). Humidity: 6 am to 6 pm, 60 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.22 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 10.8 hr. Bar, mean sea level, 1 018.0 millibars, falling.	Devon & Cornwall 704 Wilt, Gloucs, Avon, Soms 705 Berks, Bucks, Oxon 706 Bed, Herts & Essex 707 Northampton, Cambs 708
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West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712

7 am to 8 am, 17C (53F)	E Central Scotland	723
8 am to 9 am, 11C (52F) Rain. 24 hr to 9 pm,	Grapen & E Highlands	724
7 in. Sun; 24 hr to 9 pm, 3.5 in.	N W Scotland	725
	Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726

GLASGOW

Security: Temp: max 8am to 8pm, 18C (64F);
n 8pm to 6am, 16C (60F). Rain: 24hr to 8pm,
12 in. 8pm to 24 hr to 8pm, 3.6 in.

London 8.12 pm to 5.57 am
Bristol 8.21 pm to 6.06 am
Edinburgh 8.36 pm to 5.57 am
Manchester 8.25 pm to 6.00 am
Penzance 8.20 pm to 5.57 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fahrenheit; r, rain; s, sun.

Belfast	13	F	Glasgow	18	F
	55			64	

Sun rises	Sun sets	17 03c	Inverness	15 59r
5.55 am	8.12 pm	16 01f	Jersey	19 00f
		17 03r	London	79 06f
Moon rises	Moon sets	18 04s	Nottingham	16 01c

HIGH TIDES									
	AM	HT	PM	HT		AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY					TODAY				
London Bridge	3.09	7.1	3.25	7.0	Liverpool	12.19	9.6	12.42	9.4
London	2.48		2.5						

overmount	2.18	4.4	8.54	4.2	Lowson	10.30	2.8	11.28	2.3
overmouth	8.42	13.0	8.57	13.3	Margate	1.25	4.7	1.31	4.5
over	—	—	12.38	3.3	Milford Haven	7.34	6.8	7.50	7.5
over	8.27	12.1	8.42	12.3	Newquay	6.24	6.9	6.40	7.2
overport	7.20	5.3	7.34	5.7	Olsen	7.22	3.8	7.24	4.1
over	12.13	5.4	12.29	6.7	Over	—	—	—	—

Information supplied by Met Office

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BUSINESS

TUESDAY AUGUST 21 1990

City Editor
John Bell

ISE is still awaiting Polly Peck explanation

THE International Stock Exchange was last night still waiting for a full explanation of the sequence of events leading up to Asil Nadir's withdrawal from a bid approach for Polly Peck, the fresh fruit, leisure and electronics group.

The Stock Exchange requested an immediate filing on the matter on Friday after Mr Nadir, Polly Peck's chairman who owns 26 per cent of the group, said he had decided not to bid for the company because several institutional shareholders said he could not offer enough money to tempt them.

Shares in Polly Peck closed down 17p at 307p, compared with a high of 462p last week after Mr Nadir made a bid approach.

Arnolds sold
Bentley, the mini-conglomerate specialising in property, has sold Arnolds (Bainbridge) to a management-led team for £1.15 million. Britain's largest venture capital group, 3i, together with Jim Omand of Hobourn Group and Don French, Arnolds' chief executive, are participating in the buy-out. National Westminster Bank is providing short-term finance. Arnolds, based in Kent, is an engineering fabricator and maker of conveying waste and compaction systems.

Telecom denial
The Treasury has denied claims that it has advanced any plans to sell its remaining 49 per cent stake in British Telecom before the next election. "The government will keep under review the sale of its residual shareholding as the circumstances of the company and market conditions permit," a spokesman said.

Resort ahead
Resort Hotels, the former BES issue, has reported a 207 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £3.62 million for the year to end-April. Earnings per share rose 17 per cent to 1.35p. A final 0.43p dividend makes a total of 0.65p for the year, an 18 per cent rise.

US dollar
1.9180 (-0.0005)
W German mark
2.9915 (+0.0204)
Exchange index
95.8 (+0.5)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1659.5 (-19.4)
FT-SE 100
2156.6 (-20.3)
New York Dow Jones
2662.38 (+17.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
26490.47 (-296.25)
Closing Prices ... Page 21

Major indices and major changes Page 18

INTEREST RATES
London Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank: 15%
3-month eligible bills: 14%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds Rate: 7.51-7.50%
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.51-7.50%
30-year bonds: 9.75-9.85%

CURRENCIES
London: £1 = \$1.9180
New York: £1 = \$1.9180
E: DM2.9915
S: DM1.5573
E: Sfr2.4829
S: Sfr1.2913
E: FF10.3651
S: FF6.2863
E: Yen175
S: Yen148.75
E: Index95.8
S: Index93.3
ECU: £0.691385
SDR: £0.78910
E: ECU1.46351
S: SDR1.361578

GOLD
London Fixing:
AM \$410.80 pm \$407.75
close \$409.50-410.00 (\$213.50-214.00)
New York:
Comex: \$409.40-409.90

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Sep) ... \$29.05 (\$29.35)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES
Bank Buys Bank Sells
Australia \$ 2.485 2.225
Austria S 2.100 2.100
Belgium F 36.40 36.40
Canada \$ 2.283 2.153
Denmark Kr 11.56 11.25
Finland Mk 7.58 6.88
France F 10.44 9.84
Germany Dm 3.05 2.825
Greece Dr 160 140
Hong Kong \$ 15.50 14.60
Ireland P 7.88 7.25
Italy L 2096 2165
Japan Yen 297 280
Netherlands Gld 12.08 11.38
Norway Kr 274.25 252.25
Portugal Esc 200 180
South Africa R 1.51 1.79
Sweden Kr 11.45 10.33
Switzerland Fr 2.06 1.85
Turkey Lira 2.005 1.850
USA \$ 1.918 1.910
Yugoslavia Dn 25.00 25.00

Figures for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Reuters Bank B.L.C. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 129.8 (July)

Bank lending slows to four-year low

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

A SHARP fall in bank lending growth and the money supply last month has given John Major, the chancellor, some of the firmest evidence yet that high interest rates are progressively curbing credit and spending.

Lending by banks and building societies grew by only £3.9 billion, the smallest monthly increase since August 1987, as personal and mortgage lending stagnated and retailers cut their overdrafts.

The annual rate of growth in lending, though still running at 17.2 per cent, fell to its lowest for four years.

The slowdown, which was sharper than expected, helped starting to continue its upward trend on the foreign exchange markets.

The Bank of England's sterling index rose from Friday's close of 95.3 to 95.8 and the pound, which had opened 1.5 pence up against the mark, later edged above 2.99 marks.

Long-dated gilt-edged stocks retained about half their initial rise of half a point, but the news had little impact on shares, which fell on reports from the Gulf and the weakness in New York.

The growth in money supply came to a halt in July, albeit perhaps temporarily, as cash holdings fell. There was a drop of 0.5 per cent over the month in M0, the narrow money measure of notes and

coins, helping to cut the annual rate of growth from 6.5 per cent in June to 5.5 per cent.

The broad measure of money, M4, which has been growing much faster, registered no increase last month, partly because investors who subscribed to the privatisation of water service groups had to pay the second instalment on their shares. The 12 month growth in M4 also dropped from 16.8 per cent to 16.3 per cent.

More recent figures show the growth in money supply is decelerating faster in response to slack consumer spending. Over the past six months, M0 grew at an annual rate of 4.2 per cent, down from 4.7 per cent in the six months to June and by only 0.1 per cent over the latest three months.

Growth in M4 over the latest half year fell more sharply, from an annual rate of 15.6 per cent to 13.3 per cent.

Simon Briscoe, of Greenwell Montagu, the securities group, said that on the basis of more recent weekly figures for circulation of banknotes, M0 growth was likely to fall just within the long-standing target range of 1-5 per cent in August and that this was consistent with a 1 point cut in short-term interest rates within the next two or three months.

But Gerard Lyons, economist with DKB International, the Japanese house, said the chancellor was unlikely to

relax monetary policy until there was further evidence of an economic downturn, because this might undermine the tough message he wants to give to consumers and wage bargainers.

The slower growth in bank lending included a £240 million cut in borrowing by retailers, who had cut stocks in their summer sales. This continued a trend shown in new government figures, which estimated a net fall of £236 million in stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers combined in the second quarter of the year. Of this, wholesalers cut stocks by £168 million, while manufacturers increased stocks slightly.

There was also a net fall of almost £250 million in banks' personal lending, mainly on non-mortgage lending. Allowing for special factors, bank lending to the personal sector was flat.

The second month of each quarter has recently shown the lowest increase in lending due to gaps in seasonal adjustments. On that basis, extra July lending of £3.9 billion compares with £4.1 billion in April, the comparable month of the second quarter. This confirms the trend in June, when lending including rolled up quarterly interest grew by £7.1 billion compared with £9.2 billion in March.

Comment, page 19

Goodman gives food for thought



The sale by Larry Goodman (above), the Irish food magnate, of his 9 per cent stake in Unigate has turned the investment spotlight on to Berisford International, in which he holds a 13.1 per cent stake and which analysts suggest could have greater potential. Meanwhile, Unigate still has its City followers. *Tempos, page 19*

PowerGen flotation still on the cards

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government and Hanson were continuing their telephone negotiations yesterday as the final deadline for a bid for PowerGen from the industrial conglomerate neared, with suggestions from the government side that an offer of £1.4 billion would not be acceptable.

This follows reports from Hanson over the weekend that it might not come up with the £1.5 billion the government had initially hoped for.

The government is now implying, although it will not tie its hands by saying so formally, that a lower bid might mean the abandonment of a trade auction of PowerGen.

Officially, if no suitable Hanson bid is forthcoming by this Friday the government must revert to its original intention to float the company, along with its larger rival National Power, next spring.

Any such flotation could be marred by the suggestion that one of the companies on offer had already been rejected by Hanson.

The alternative, if an acceptable offer from Hanson does not emerge, is to continue with a trade sale, inviting bids from other parties, including the PowerGen management, which has already implied it is keen to continue down the buyout route come what may. But a decision to go for a trade sale anyway could prove politically embarrassing, in that it would require yet another abrupt shift in government policy.

Meanwhile, sources at PowerGen were keen to play down reports of a rift between its chairman, Robert Malpas, and the chief executive, Ed Wallis, who is arranging the management buyout.

As a non-executive director, Mr Malpas is not permitted to take part in any scheme to bring in outside investors and give the management and staff a 10 per cent stake in the business. But there is thought to be no reason why he should not take his place as chairman of the board once any MBO is successful.

Opec refuses Saudi appeal for an emergency session

By MARTIN BARROW

THE Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries has refused Saudi Arabia's appeal for an emergency session to discuss increases in oil production to offset the loss of four million barrels a day from Iraq and Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia now seems certain to defy fellow Opec members and increase output to produce another two million barrels a day in addition to the existing Opec quota of 5.5 million barrels.

The move is likely to be supported by Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates, which have surplus capacity for about 800,000 barrels a day.

But it will anger Baghdad, which has warned Saudi Arabia that all oil production facilities would become military targets if they defied Opec.

The Saudis' stance initially eased supply fears and appeared to relieve pressure on oil prices. But in later trading markets again responded to

the increasing tension and oil prices moved sharply ahead. In London, October Brent traded 43 cents above Friday's close at \$27.55, with the November contract up 49 cents to \$26.57.

Opec said that Saudi Arabia had failed to achieve the support of a majority of the cartel's 13 members for an emergency meeting. However, in an apparent attempt to achieve a compromise, Opec president Sadek Boussena of Algeria said consultation would take place with selected oil ministers before the end of the month.

Most Opec states are reluctant to increase production at a time when they are benefiting from higher oil prices, claiming that Western nations should instead begin to draw down on their substantial oil stocks.

Fear of retaliation by Iraq is another significant factor behind the reluctance of Gulf states to support Saudi Arabia. But the main reason is that

most Opec members lack the surplus capacity to take advantage of higher quotas. Iran, which shares Iraq's long-term oil price aims, is estimated to be able to produce only 50,000 barrels a day in addition to its current output. Indonesia could only produce another 20,000 barrels while Algeria has no surplus capacity.

The Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, would like to join the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to help co-ordinate production and prices, a Russian minister said yesterday.

"We are ready to join Opec as one of its members, at first perhaps as an observer and in the future possibly as a full member," Russian Foreign Economic Relations Minister Viktor Yaroshenko said. (Reuters)

Lloyd's hull war risk premiums for the Gulf have eased slightly after last week's sharp rises in anticipation of the outbreak of war in the region.

Saatchi in talks on buyout by McCaffrey management

From JOHN DUNN in NEW YORK

SAATCHI & Saatchi is trying to reach agreement on a management buyout of McCaffrey & McCaff, its New York advertising agency.

The management have offered to buy the agency for less than \$20 million. Under the terms on offer they would pay \$2 million in cash, making up the balance over several years.

Bob Chertins, McCaffrey's chairman and chief executive, declined to comment.

In London, a Saatchi spokesman said: "We're still in negotiations with the management, as we have been for some months."

McCaffrey generates about \$303 million in revenue but

has found it difficult to produce new business in recent months.

Saatchi started negotiating with management early last year but then wanted as much as \$40 million. It appears that Saatchi may have to lower its price even further.

The McCaffrey management had difficulty in raising bank finance for the deal and is therefore asking Saatchi to help finance the buyout.

This deal may well set a trend with other Saatchi firms trying to obtain similar terms from the troubled advertising group.

This year Saatchi agreed to sell Peterson, its Chicago-

based legal consultancy, to its management at a loss. Saatchi paid \$116 million for the firm three years ago but received \$2 million from the sale, though it is to be followed by further payments of \$20 million over ten years.

Hay Group, for which Saatchi paid \$130 million, was sold to its partners for less than \$80 million.

Saatchi had hoped to cut its debt mountain by raising £100 million from the sale of its consultancies. But analysts reckon that the group has managed to raise only about £50 million, with further sales not expected to generate much more than £30 million.

BP to sell Dutch subsidiary

By OUR CITY STAFF

BP is seeking offers for its exploration and production interests in the Netherlands.

The company said yesterday that it had invited "a small number of companies" to bid for BP Exploration, which has interests in 23 offshore blocks or near-blocks with net acreage of 1,670 sq km and two onshore areas with net acreage of 1,374 sq km. The sale is being handled by Kleinwort Benson. Offers of about £50 million are anticipated.

John Browne, chief executive officer of BP Exploration, said: "The proposed sale is in line with our recent review of worldwide activities and future strategic direction, which involves greater concentration on our core producing assets and frontier exploration."

Exploration's interests in



Browne: "strategic move"

clade stakes in four producing gas fields, which currently yield a net share of 14 million cubic feet of gas a day to BP. Another two gas fields are under development, including the onshore field of Waalwijk, which together with two additional discoveries will increase BP's daily net production to 17 million cubic feet of gas. BP's share of remaining

proven reserves is currently estimated at 76 billion cubic feet, and the company said there was significant potential for growth from both undeveloped discoveries and exploration.

UK oil and gas companies believed to be interested in BP's Dutch assets include Cyde Petroleum, which already owns 5 per cent of the huge Kildu gasfield, and earlier this year paid \$3.72 million for Triton Europe's sole remaining interests in the Netherlands sector of the North Sea.

BP also announced yesterday that offers would be considered for its 50 per cent interest in an onshore oilfield at Welford, near Lincoln, which is now being valued by independent consultants. The proposed move of 100 BP staff from Newark, Nottinghamshire, to Lincoln is also under review.

Sheraton shares hit low of 3p

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Sheraton Securities, the property developer, fell to just 3p at one point yesterday, after trading in the shares resumed following a £50 million refinancing package put together by SG Warburg.

The package involved £25 million of new bank facilities and £25 million of new equity raised through a two-for-one rights issue at 10p a share. Warburg had hoped that the shares would open at a slight premium to the 10p issue price, given that the company has stated net assets per share of 20p.

The shares opened, briefly, at 11p, but fell quickly. From their low of 3p they recovered slowly to close at 5p, valuing the company at £20 million. The ill-paid shares had a nominal value of 0.25p. More than 8.4 million shares were traded, as a few shareholders wanted to be out of property shares, regardless of

cost. Sheraton's shares were suspended in April at 36p.

On Friday Sheraton reported pre-tax losses of £44.6 million for the year to March, with trading profits hit by a £47.2 million exceptional item reflecting the reduced value of the company's developments.

In all, the company made write-offs of over £61 million. But the company also announced that it had total debts of £356 million, including £143 million of off balance sheet debt.

Analysts blamed the fall in the share price on the fact that, in the spring, the management gave no indication to shareholders that it had a debt problem.

Earlier, the quotations committee of the Stock Exchange gave permission for dealings in a nil-paid stock to proceed, despite the rights issue being conditional on the company not defaulting on its new bank finance during the rights issue

period. The developer was brought close to collapse by the slump in the property market following cashflow problems, which stemmed from soaring borrowings and a slowdown in sales of completed developments.

The new money raised by Warburg is supposed to give Sheraton a year to sort out its problems. Sheraton has begun a disposal programme in an effort to bring borrowings down to acceptable levels by September 1991. However, the new bank finance comes with condition attached, and any further deterioration in the property market could prove fatal to the company.

The valuers reckon that Sheraton's portfolio will be worth £550 million on completion, of which £366 million was ascribed to development properties. It will cost Sheraton more than £100 million to complete its development portfolio.

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Fed faces a tough decision on rates

From JOHN DUNN in NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve Board's open market committee meets today in one of its most difficult sessions to consider whether to cut American interest rates.

White House officials have publicly urged Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, to cut the federal funds rate, the key interbank overnight lending rate, from its present 8 per cent to help avoid a recession.

At the same time the White House has made no progress on cutting a 1991 Federal budget deficit which is approaching \$250 billion or 3.1 per cent of GNP, including the cost of the savings and loan bailout and the effects of the oil price rises.

Mr Greenspan has previously held firm against such pressure as inflation is still running at between 4.5 and 5 per cent.

There is added pressure on him as his term as chairman runs out next year and the White House has still to name a replacement for his deputy, Manuel Johnson, who resigned on August 3. Mr Greenspan would like another four years running monetary policy and the Morgan Stanley

economist David Greenlaw believes it is too early to resort to something like the failure to appoint a new deputy. "It's not as though they haven't had other things on their mind lately," he said.

Mr Greenspan surprised the market last month by cutting the fed funds rate from 8.25 per cent to 8 per cent, the first cut since January. But latest statistics, especially the June quarter GNP figure showing only a 1.2 per cent growth in the economy, have vindicated the decision.

Dr Neil Soss, chief economist at First Boston, believes the Fed is biased towards cutting rates, but will not act immediately. "It's an awkward decision and the more awkward decisions are the more committees tend to put off decisions," he said.

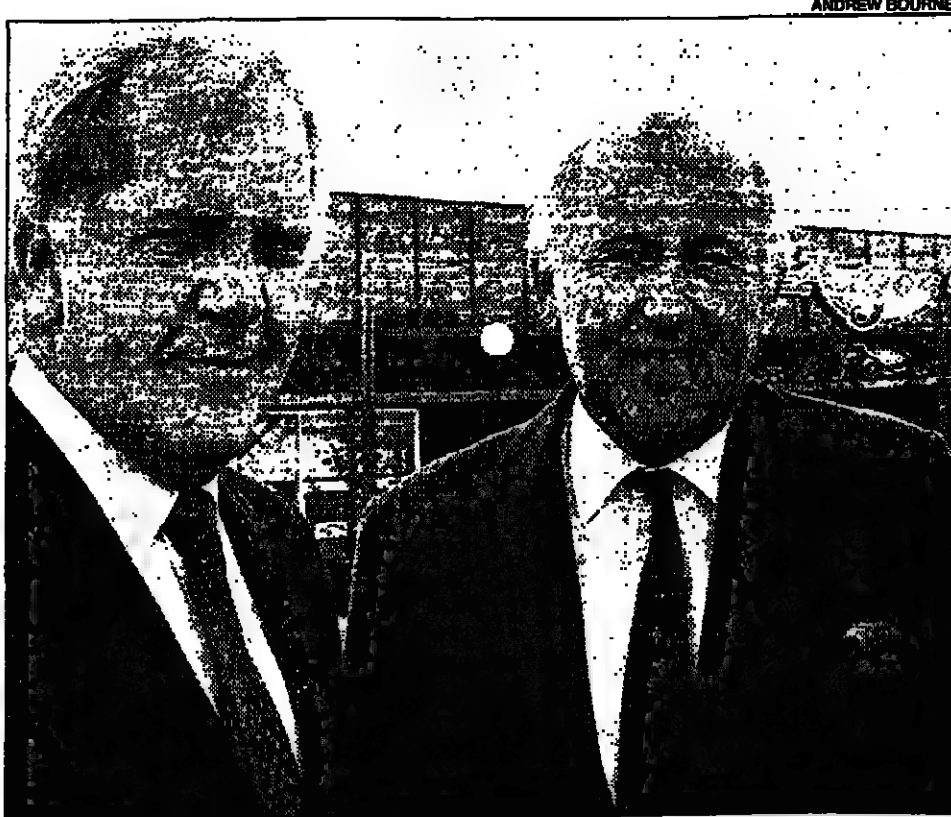
The balance, as ever, is between cutting inflation and avoiding recession. The difficulty is that Wall Street expects GNP to grow by just 0.3 per cent in the second half, so recession is close after 7½ years of growth. Oil prices above \$25 a barrel are estimated to cut 0.5 per cent off GNP and if consumers cut

spending to accommodate the extra \$30 billion they will have to pay for more expensive oil, recession seems certain. At the same time US inflation is stuck at a core rate between 4.5 and 5 per cent which Mr Greenspan believes is too high.

The dollar is trading at record lows against the mark, mainly because American interest rates are not attractive to foreign buyers, with rates in West Germany and Japan rising.

The June trade deficit of \$5.06 billion, the lowest for seven years, showed strong exports and weak import demand, but on balance indicated there was little left in the economy. This will help those in the Fed who do not want a cut in rates. A lower dollar would also boost exports.

With congressional elections at the end of this year President Bush does not want a recession at any cost. Salomon Brothers expect American interest rates to end the year at 7.5 per cent and the consensus on Wall Street is that Mr Greenspan will wait until later in the year to move to this level.



Expanding Argos: chief executive Mike Smith, left, and chairman David Doss

Argos results 24% ahead

MIKE Smith, chief executive of Argos, the catalogue retailer, said the likelihood of interest rates falling had been lessened by events in the Gulf. "Any effect is likely to be negative," he said (Gillian Bowditch writes).

pre-tax profits for the six months to June 16 up by 24.2 per cent to £14.9 million. Turnover rose by 16.5 per cent to £311.6 million. Taxed earnings per share rose from 2.63p to 3.23p and the group declared a 2p dividend.

The group is taking advantage of the sluggish property market to speed up its expansion plans. Dr Smith said the group could be interested in some Lowndes Queensway sites. Argos shares rose 1p to 230p.

Times, page 19

WALL STREET

Early rise in Dow

NEW YORK SHARE prices continued firm in morning activity, with traders cashing in on the market's oversold position.

The strength of the early rebound remained questionable, as tension in the Middle East held investors' attention.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 9.41 to 2,654.21. Advancing issues held a slight lead over declining shares.

● Frankfurt — Concerns about the situation in the Gulf

continued to pressure West German shares.

The DAX index ended 30.19 points lower at 1,635.69. Prices rose on short-covering in early trade, but the DAX later fell to a 1990 low of 1,625.21.

● Sydney — The Australian share market finished slightly weaker but off its lows with the gold and oil sectors strongly firmer. The All-Ordinaries index ended 4.6 points weaker at 1,538.5, off the low of 1,529.8.

● Tokyo — The Nikkei index

ended 296.25 points, or 1.11 per cent, down at 26,490.47, just off the day's low of 26,456.09.

The index lost 762.72 points on Friday, and a total of 542.83 points, or 1.99 per cent, last week.

"Volume is pitiful. Very small lot selling and buying can push the market either way," said one broker.

It's a typical blue Monday without much movement.

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STOCK MARKET

Dealers keep close watch on oil price as shares continue to slide

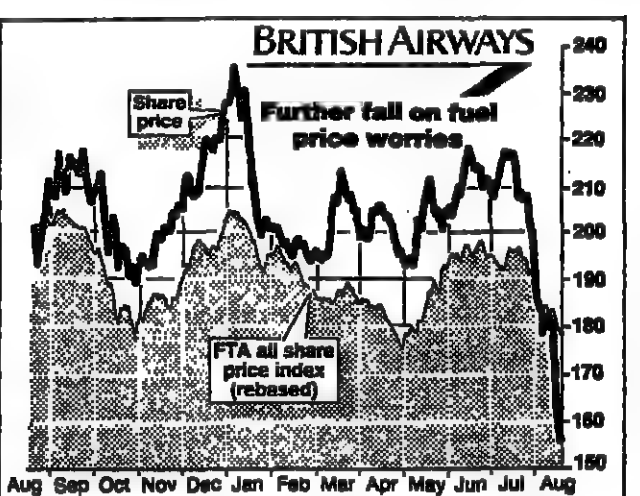
LONDON remained preoccupied with the Middle East, with shares moving steadily lower throughout the day. However, many dealers now believe that London is close to fully discounting events so far in the Gulf.

A close eye was kept on the price of oil, following the weekend statement from the Saudi Arabian authorities that the country planned to increase oil production by about 2 million barrels per day, replacing half the production lost since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Despite the Saudi commitment to increase production with, or as, became clearer yesterday, without the agreement of Opec, oil prices rose and by the time the stock market closed, the price of October Brent had risen to around \$27.30 in London. But that is still some way short of the \$30 a barrel that has been deemed to be of economic significance.

London's preoccupation with international affairs was amply demonstrated when modestly encouraging money supply figures were ignored. The figures showed M0 growing at an annual rate of 5.5 per cent, in line with City expectations. However, the increase in borrowing by the personal sector was only £3.9 billion, against expectations of £5 billion.

By the time these figures came out, the London market was already anticipating a weak opening on Wall Street. Half an hour before Wall Street's official opening, the FT-SE 100 index was 28 points below its opening level, in expectation of an opening



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

fall of about 25 points. However, on this occasion London fear of Wall Street proved unfounded. London continued to track the American market for the rest of the session.

The FT-SE 100 eventually closed 20.3 lower at 2,156.6. The FT-30 fell 19.4 to 1,659.5.

Having dropped 5p on Friday, Coats Vye, the textile group, fell another 5p to 96p yesterday. Khaleel Talmuri, an analyst at Carr, Kitch & Aitken, has downgraded his current year forecast from £120 million to £115 million, reflecting depressed trading conditions and the strength of the company's operating profits are earned overseas.

As 350 million shares were traded. Shares were also helped by the September FT-SE 100 index contract trading at a premium to fair value on the futures market.

Gilt were boosted by the strong pound, but finished off their best with gains of about a quarter of a point. International investors are concerned that the American Federal Reserve may, despite an already weak dollar, have

On the wrong end of the rise in oil prices was British Airways, which fell 4.5p to 167p, amid continuing concern about the impact that higher aviation fuel prices could have on the company. Having eased their way lower in July, the shares have now fallen more than 30p since Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Following Friday's news that Asil Nadir, the chairman, had abandoned his plans to take Polytek private, shares in the fruit to electronics group fell 17p to 307p.

The property sector continued its lively run, as it digested the weekend's news that Rockport had gone into administration rather than liquidation and that Sheraton Securities was to return to the market after being suspended in April at 36p.

After opening briefly at a penny premium to the 10p rights issue price, the shares fell quickly to 3p as more than 8 million shares were traded. By the close they had recovered to 5p, valuing the company at £20 million. On Friday Sheraton disclosed that at its March year-end it had total debts of over £350 million.

Shares in Speyhawk rose 26p to 385p on continuing speculation that it would soon announce an agreed bid with Nordstjernan, the Swedish group. Fueling the speculation yesterday was the news that Brian Shrubshell, the vice-chairman, had followed the example of Trevor Osborne, the chairman, in transferring part of his shareholding to a Jersey trust.

Going the other way, however, were Enterprise Oil, up 12p at 652p, Lasso, up 11p at 478p, and Ranger Oil, 5p better at 379p.

MATTHEW BOND

Gulf tension hits confidence in Tokyo

Tokyo SHARES closed down and near their lows after a thin session. Gulf tension reduced confidence and kept major investors on the sidelines.

Buying by investment trusts and selling by arbitrageurs kept the index sandwiched in a relatively narrow range, brokers said.

"It's a typical blue Monday without much movement,"

said a trader at Sanyo Securities. The Nikkei index slid 296.25 points, or 1.11 per cent, to 26,490.47, just off the day's low of 26,456.09.

The index lost 762.72 points on Friday, and a total of 542.83 points, or 1.99 per cent, last week.

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over was 200 million shares compared with Friday's 300 million.

● Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index closed sharply lower in reaction to New York's softer finish on Friday and weakness in other Asian markets, dealers said.

The Hang Seng fell 69.8 points, or 2.3 per cent, to close at 3,052.64. "Hong Kong's sharp fall was merely a belated

response to adjustments made last week in other Asian markets," said Arthur Lam, research manager at Scrimgeour Vickers.

● Singapore — The widely watched Straits Times industrial index plunged to close at a low for this year of 1,280.72, as share prices tumbled across the board. The index lost 33.41 points from Friday's close of 1,314.13.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
The World (free)	598.0	-0.6	-29.1	-0.3	-17.8
EAPE	114.1	-0.6	-29.3	-0.4	-17.9
(free)	107.2	-0.9	-33.2	-1.1	-23.8
Europe	839.5	-2.1	-13.5	-1.7	-11.9
(free)	137.3	-2.1	-18.0	-1.9	-12.2
Nth America	420.9	-0.1	-21.8	-0.1	-7.1
(free)	138.5	-1.6	-11.0	-1.1	-2.6
Pacific	229.8	-1.1	-4.9	-0.6	3.8
(free)	104.6	-0.9	-29.3	-0.4	-17.9
Far East	326.8	-0.1	-43.2	-0.4	-31.3
Australia	283.4	-0.3	-18.4	-0.5	-5.3
Austria	1596.3	-0.5	7.4	0.0	17.7
Belgium	737.4	-3.7	-25.1	-3.1	-19.7
Canada	454.1	-0.5	-24.4	-0.4	-11.2
Denmark	1247.0	0.2	-5.3	0.8	2.2
Finland	86.3	0.0	-25.2	0.2	-19.1
(free)	119.7	-2.5	-19.7	-2.3	-13.1
France	597.7	-4.2	-28.1	-3.4	-20.3
Germany	771.5	-3.0	-15.9	-2.3	-7.8
Hong Kong	1998.9	-2.6	-9.9	-2.4	6.6
Italy	293.2	-4.9	-29.9	-4.0	-17.8
Japan	3447.7	-0.2	-1.1	-0.3	-32.3
Netherlands	784.3	-0.8	-17.1	-0.1	-9.2
New Zealand	27.9	-1.0	-24.5	-1.0	-13.9
Norway	1447.3	-0.9	7.8	-0.4	-0.7
(free)	257.8	-0.6	10.4	-0.2	20.3
Singapore	1595.0	-2.7	-20.0	-2.6	-10.5
Spain	188.0	-0.5	-20.6	-0.2	-17.2
Sweden	1492.8	-2.8	-14.9	-2.3	-6.1
(free)	216.9	-2.7	-10.4	-2.2	-1.2
Switzerland	796.0	-2.0	-13.0	-1.2	-13.2
(free)	119.3	-1.7	-14.6	-1.0	-14.8
UK	839.9	-1.1	-11.2	-1.1	-11.2
USA	579.1	-0.1	-21.5	-0.1	-6.8

(ft) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)
Adams Resources	36.41	13.7	116
Adams Resources	22	108	108
Adams Resources	54	127	127
Adams Resources	41	151	151
Adams Resources	45	175	175
Adams Resources	46	175	175
Adams Resources	46	175	175
Adams Resources	46	175	175
Adams Resources	46	175	175
Adams Resources	46	175	175

See main listing for Water shares

See main listing for Water shares

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Profits warning at Bridport-Gundry

BRIDPORT-Gundry, the netting and specialist textiles company, which made a £1.04 million pre-tax profit last year, has given warning of "materially" lower profits for the year to end-July.

The company said it had been affected by exposure to defence and commercial fishing, and by difficulties in disposing of properties. Margins in defence operations had been "seriously eroded" in the second half.

Bridport is responding to the downturn by building up its civil aviation business. Last year, about 15 per cent of sales were to the defence sector. The company is suffering from higher than expected gearing, despite reducing borrowings. The shares fell 2p to 71p.

Germans lift TI holding

THE German engineering group Mannesmann has increased its stake in TI Group by almost 1 per cent to just under 6 per cent. The increase is in line with Mannesmann's previously stated intention to increase its TI stake to 9.9 per cent through market purchases from time to time, a TI statement said.

McInerney rights success

McINERNEY Properties, the Dublin-based building, civil engineering and property development company, has successfully completed its £7.3 million (£6.5 million) rights issue, with 88.8 per cent of the 36,812,172 new ordinary shares taken up. The balance of 4,125,120 new shares were placed at the market at 21.25p each.

Allied Insurance soars

PRE-TAX profits for the six months to end-June were up 33 per cent to £1.01 million from last year's £761,000 at Allied Insurance Brokers Group, the USM-owned niche insurance company. Turnover increased 28 per cent to £3.6 million and the interim dividend is raised from 1p to 1.5p.

The group balance sheet was strengthened by the sale of the 75 per cent stake in the construction insurance business Senior Wright to management, increasing net assets by £400,000. The sale has left the group with nil gearing. The chairman, Nigel Cayzer, said there had been strong growth in all the company's business sectors and he felt "very confident" about the group's future.

IEP increases Field lands

IEP Securities, a unit of Hong Kong's Industrial Equity (Pacific), said it had increased its holding in Budgens, the British supermarket chain, from 14.1 per cent to 15.54 per cent. IEP said it bought 1.25 million Budgens shares in the market, which has brought its total holding to 13.6 million.

Cooper clawback

SHAREHOLDERS in Frederick Cooper, the industrial holding company, clawed back just 7.75 per cent of the £3.35 million new shares conditionally placed by Clatterhouse Bank with institutional investors to help fund two acquisitions worth a total of £10.2 million.

Existing shares have fallen from 90p to 73p, against the placing price of 81p, since the acquisitions were announced last month, when the company forecast that profits for the year ending July 31 would fall from £8.7 million before tax to £4.6 million. The acquisition of Group Sales, a distributor of door and window fittings, and Beaver Architectural Ironmongery is expected to be completed tomorrow.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

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Bank lending slows down at last

COMMENT

Slower growth of bank lending and money supply is now a firmly established trend and shows that, in this part of the economy at least, the anti-inflation policy is working well. The July figures were particularly good for special reasons but are clearly not a flash in the pan. The trend is so clear that some City economists are — perhaps too optimistically — looking forward to a cut in the long-standing 15 per cent base rate in the next two or three months.

The rise in bank lending in July was the lowest monthly figure since August 1988, partly due to a round of destocking by retailers as well as low personal lending. More significantly, the 12-month rate of growth in bank lending, at 17.6 per cent, is the lowest since June 1986 and there are no special factors in that. Likewise, M4, the wider measure including building society deposits, was helped last month when investors in privatised water companies paid the second instalment on their shares. But there is an underlying downtrend.

M0 may now be reduced to the

status of a lagging indicator, but in that role is showing an encouraging downward progression. Annualised growth over the past six months is well below that over 12 months and growth in the past quarter is negligible. There is a good chance that, in August, annual M0 growth will come within the 1-5 per cent growth target set in the 1988 Budget for the first time, apart from the freak strike-affected figure in September last year.

If only monetary policy were about watching the aggregates and making sure bank lending came under control, housebuyers could be fairly confident that their mortgage interest rate might come down in a couple of months' time. But that is no longer the case.

To start with, inflation has gained its own momentum through pay increases, which had certainly become the principal factor pushing underlying inflation further up until the

uncertainties over oil. Monetary policy is therefore as much aimed at wage bargainers as at squeezing credit.

Long-term anti-inflation policy is also in the throes of a great recasting.

The monetary and public-finance targets of the medium-term financial strategy had outlived much of their practical use and will shortly become merely the dignified part of the government's policy framework. This will switch to fixing sterling against the mark. Both the Treasury and the Bank of England seem determined to run the risk of recession and make the maximum initial impact on the public mind by entering the EMS exchange rate mechanism at a high level.

Foreign exchange markets would get quite the wrong idea if

interest rates were to be cut before entry, unless 12-month growth in M0 were right at the bottom end of its target range. To them, the government has spoken tough and acted soft too often.

John Major is therefore likely to disappoint party supporters who would like him to cut interest rates around the time of the autumn party conference. Oddly, in terms of straightforward economic management, that might well be exactly the right thing to do.

No sale at BT

The rumour that the government plans to sell its remaining holding in British Telecom before the next election has, Rasputin-like, failed

to lie down despite any amount of bludgeoning from supposedly involved parties. Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank reportedly already courting interested institutions both at home and overseas, professes total and convincing ignorance. The Department of Trade and Industry says it is pure speculation; the Treasury knows nothing of it.

Two parties look set to gain if the rumour is true. The Conservative party would like to remove BT, and as much of the rest of the state apparatus as possible, from Labour's grasp, should disaster strike at the next election.

Currently the slim majority in the public's hands could be overturned relatively cheaply by Labour with the purchase of 2 per cent of BT in the market. Meanwhile the BT board would love to see the end of any tie with Whitehall. The rumour has one positive

factor in its favour. The forthcoming duopoly review of the telecommunications market by OfTel, which will seal BT's future, could easily be completed by next summer.

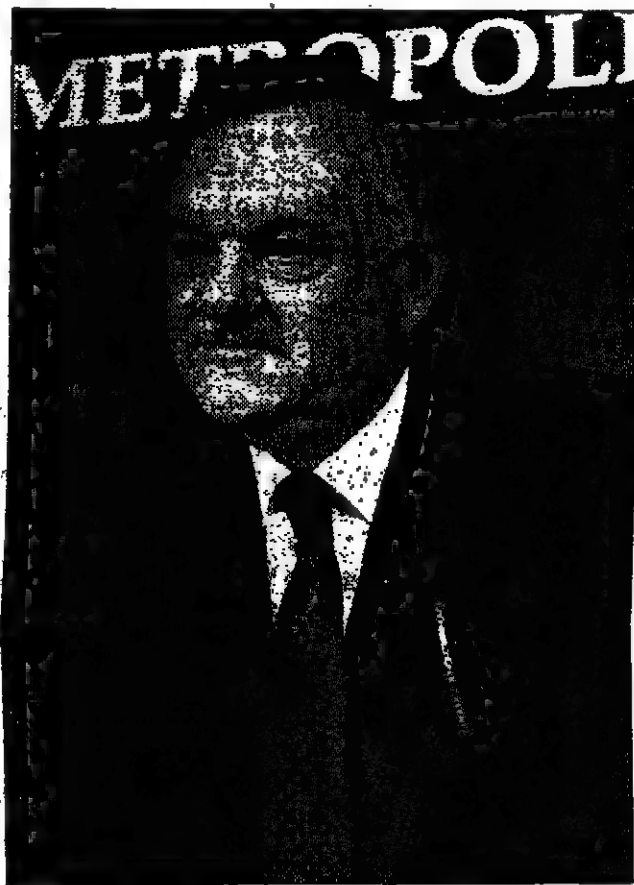
All other factors seem to weigh against a sale. There are three other privatisations in the pipeline over the next year. March is ruled out by the Budget; September is the earliest possible target date, but BT would be in danger of getting its wires entangled with an impending election.

There is a half-way house, an institutional placing of perhaps half the government's stake, which could take place any time next summer or autumn. But there are no indications the government needs the money that desperately.

So BT can hold the line. An election won, and a sale could cash in on the ensuing market euphoria; a lost election, and BT is the last of the Conservatives' problems.

BT shares therefore look like remaining for some time to come an opinion poll stock par excellence.

Fermenting fundamental change for the beerage



Sir Allen Sheppard: awaiting report from MMC

with the industry — as well as looking ahead to the European review and market development. If the MMC remains disturbed about two large brewers having 40 per cent or more of the British beer market then Bass, at about 23 per cent, and Courage, probably ending up with 18 per cent, would break that barrier. Yet, with the exception of the German market, with its

leading mainland European companies is a well-known brand name in Britain. Carlsberg, which has a brewery at Northampton, is known to be keen on increasing its brewing capacity in Britain.

Whether GrandMet, led by Sir Allen Sheppard, the chairman, and Courage, with Michael Foster, the managing director, at the helm, have been prepared to make concessions that would produce a market share lower than 40 per cent remains to be seen.

The bare bones of the Courage-GrandMet deal are that GrandMet would buy out of brewing by selling its four breweries to Courage. Courage and GrandMet pubs would largely go to Intreprenor Estates, a new company, which after disposals would end up with about 7,000 pubs.

This would be a joint venture between Courage and GrandMet, with the latter managing it on a day-to-day basis. GrandMet would also still run about 1,700 pubs, nearly a third of them leased from Intreprenor.

Originally the intention was that GrandMet would have a ten-year deal to supply beer to the Intreprenor outlets, to be renewable after that. A concession was offered to bring the main period back to five years with a reduction of 10 per cent a year over the following five years.

Another possible concession could centre on areas where pub concentration would be high after putting together Courage and GrandMet interests.

This points to substantial scaling down of pub ownership in the Southeast, especially greater London, and much of the Southwest.

If the MMC still throws out the deal, or pushes it to the back burner, it looks likely that Sir Allen will look to sell off GrandMet's breweries elsewhere, possibly in a series of deals. The suitors could be numerous, from Anheuser-Busch to Carlsberg, with maybe even some Japanese interest, given at least Kirin's declared intention to expand in Europe.

Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The power of love

THE energy department would hardly be a typical setting for a Mills & Boon romance, but it was nevertheless, where City economist Jeffrey Thompson met his wife, Margaret. "It's all very boring," says Thompson, aged 43, with customary cynicism. "But I was on secondment to the department at the time." Thompson was initially an economic adviser to the British embassies in New Delhi and, later, Amman, in Jordan, in the Seventies, before being seconded to the energy department from 1978-84. While his wife went on to become an assistant secretary, and is advising on the privatisation of the electricity distribution companies in November, Thompson left to join BZW, where he became chief equity strategist. He has now been poached by Lehman Brothers, an American firm. In his new job he has become a pan-European strategist, which will incorporate the United Kingdom. "This is something most London-based houses don't do very well. I intend to do it extremely well," says Thompson, adding that because of "piddling volumes" it was no longer viable to concentrate on the UK alone. A graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford — he gained a first in PPE — he was a pupil at Quarry Bank High School, Merseyside, the school attended, he says, by two of the Beatles. "I think I was there at

the same time as John Lennon, but I can't remember which one the other one was. I'm not at all interested in popular music."

A FESTIVAL of American films in the southern state of Virginia has released details of its opening choice, a 1924 silent epic starring Douglas Fairbanks: *The Thief of Baghdad*.

Eastward ho

THE Singaporean broking firm Kim Eng Securities, which is expanding its overseas presence, has recruited three British-based members of the Far Eastern equity sales team at Smith New Court, and one from New York. Chan Kengloke, resident in New York, and David Pirks, Michael Hughes and Tan Jui Wen, all operating from London, resigned from Smith New Court a week ago. They will be replaced by both internal and external candidates. "It is not that significant," says Philip Kay, head of Smith's Far Eastern desk. "To put it in perspective, we have nearly 20 salesmen covering the Pacific side of the business in London and we employ 250 people in Pacific broking worldwide."

No bed of roses

A PR's job is not all massaging clients' egos, as the chaps at City & Commercial will tell you. They are handling public relations for Ernst & Young, the receiver to Lowndes Queensway, the furniture

group that went into receivership last week. After a hectic time fielding questions on the collapsed company, Paul Taylor and Hugh Sharp, of C&C, had an even more harrowing weekend. For several of the closed Queensway stores had posted their home telephone numbers on the shop doors and they were inundated with calls from customers. Those calls included one from a woman whose wedding is next week. She is still awaiting the delivery of a double bed.

IN VICTORIA, Australia, a radio programme host ran a competition among listeners to suggest a new name for Kuwait if its "annexation" to Iraq were to become permanent. The winning entry, suggested by an Egyptian, was... *Irate*.

Game of the name

AS PIPEMAKER Accles & Pollock recognised a few years ago, having a funny name can lead to a lot of humorous tongue-twisting. So much so that the company turned the confusion to its advantage by using some of the sillier variations, such as Hackles & Rollocks and Winkles & Scollop, in an advertising campaign. Now Newman, Biris & Partners, a City-based financial adviser, is facing a similar problem. "We get called all sorts of different things," says Bob Newman, the chairman — ranging from Newman Burst, Birds and Burkes to Baris and Brits. In the hope of coming up with a number of silly slogans for his own advertising campaign, Newman is

now offering a magnum of Krug champagne to the City Diary reader who can dream up the funniest variation.

Newberry service

A SERVICE of thanksgiving for the life and work of Michael Newberry, former deputy city editor of the *Sunday Express*, and one of the most popular bon vivants in the Square Mile, will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon next Tuesday.

Grandfather figure

TERRY Wood, the gilt-edged salesman at Sheppards, who was identified in last week's City Diary as possibly the only grandfather still working in the gilt market, is, it seems, not alone after all. After scouring his favourite column, albeit two or three days late, Barry Pearl, the director in charge of small gilt market-making at UBS Phillips & Drew, telephoned me from his holiday home in Miami, Florida, to say that he too was a grandfather — twice over. "I became a grandfather three years ago, but I don't think there are any more of us anywhere else," quipped Pearl, aged 55, anxious to put the record straight. He added that his holiday was improving daily, as the pound strengthened against the dollar. "The pound being at \$1.90 makes a tremendous difference," he said, en route for his palm-fringed swimming pool.

Carol Leonard

Argos displays its quality

LESS than five months after its stock market debut, at 202p a share, Argos is already established as a quality retail-sector stock, worthy of mention in the same breath as Marks and Spencer.

The better than expected interim results help justify the reputation. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June rose by 24.2 per cent to £14.9 million on turnover up 16.5 per cent to £311.6 million, lifting fully taxed earnings per share from 2.63p to 3.23p, and permitting a maiden dividend of 2p.

Prior to flotation, Argos had been part of the BAT empire but had been managed autonomously. The only visible sign of its weaning from BAT is a £600,000 extraordinary demerger charge.

Trading profit rose by just 11.2 per cent to £10.1 million in the first half but interest receivable soared by 64.9 per cent to £4.8 million despite a £30 million annual capital expenditure programme. This was due to higher interest rates and deferral of a dividend payment to BAT.

The tax charge has jumped from £1.22 million to £5.35 million as the group no longer benefits from BAT group tax relief.

Like-for-like sales growth increased 9.1 per cent with consumer electronics, toys, furniture and sports goods particularly strong. The company benefits from a large product mix, a wide geographical spread and the perception of it as a value-for-money retailer.

Argos will open 20 stores in the second half. Eight stores were opened during the first six months and seven others

were refurbished. Thirteen will be refurbished in the second half.

Sales have started buoyantly in the second half and early results from new-catalogue sales are encouraging. The group is expected to make £77 million in the full year, putting the shares, 1p firmer at 230p on the results, on a prospective p/e ratio of 13.8. Given Argos's excellent record, the shares make a sensible addition to any growth portfolio.

Unigate

LARRY Goodman's sale of his 9 per cent holding removes what bid fever there was attached to Unigate's shares and leaves them to be assessed more or less on their fundamentals.

The sale proceeds, amounting to about £58 million, could be useful ammunition for Mr Goodman's next "sight". They will prove equally useful as cash in the bank, which under current circumstances is probably what suits Mr Goodman best.

His 13.1 per cent stake in troubled Berisford International is running up paper losses of well over £50 million, while the current conditions in the Gulf suggest his Iraqi beef trading operations will be less robust from here on, even though he was paid cash up front for deliveries. His Irish-quoted Food Industries has been a poor performer and is down to 188p from a year's peak of 325p.

Of his portfolio interests, Mr Goodman's holding in Unigate was probably the one most easily sold. The fact that the stake was so readily

snapped up by institutions speaks volumes for City thoughts that while Unigate has its short-term problems, there is investment hope yet.

Unigate's non-food interests generate 25 per cent of profits and are not the flavour of the month.

In the year to end-March, Unigate turned in pre-tax profits of £105.5 million, but that was with the help of £12.7 million of property profits taken above the line. Such property sums are unlikely to be repeated this time round. This year, Unigate could make £106 million, to put the shares at 294p on a prospective rating of 9.3 backed by a yield of 7.5 per cent.

But Mr Goodman's loss is other investors' gain. Yield attractions, and high hopes of the new management structure, once Ross Buckland from the Kellogg group moves in as chief executive in October, make Unigate a firm hold in City eyes.

Resort Hotels

THERE was a time when double-digit earnings growth could be achieved quite simply by issuing paper to finance streams of acquisitions, allowing the booming economy and the bull market do the rest. With the right formula, it seems, it can still work, at least in the short term.

This is demonstrated by Resort Hotels, the Brighton-based former BES issue now with a main market quotation. It was floated on the USM in 1988, and through an extraordinary acquisition-led growth strategy has increased the

number of hotels under its management since then from five to 30.

Capital expenditure last year, when the company made £3.62 million pre-tax, was £25 million. Yet year-end gearing is still only 27 per cent. Two chunky rights issues provided the funding for the deals. Shareholders clearly believe Resort can deliver the goods.

Yesterday's figures show that, so far, they have done just that. Even on a tax charge eight percentage points higher than last year, earnings are ahead 17 per cent at 1.85p. And with its current stock of underdeveloped properties acquired over the past year, earnings growth should be sustainable through to 1991.

But with a tax charge rising each year as the fiscal advantages of its BES origins unwind, Resort has to generate earnings growth even to stand still. To produce the sort of returns shareholders are looking for, Resort will sooner or later have to hit the acquisition trail again, preferably buying plenty of capital allowances in the process. In the meantime, management contracts provide a steady income stream without putting equity at risk.

Until the next big push, Resort has a lot going for it. Its portfolio of three-star hotels has benefited from trading down in the business market and from the trend back towards domestic holidays.

Forecasts of just over £5 million for next year put Resort on a cheap prospective p/e of about 7.5. The shares have never quite fulfilled their potential, so this could be a good time to buy.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Potential conflicts of interest for estate agents

From Mr Philip R. Storry
Sir, I refer to the correspondence (August 7 and August 14) concerning the potential conflict of interest in estate agents acting for a vendor on the sale of property and the purchaser in arranging a mortgage and linked endowment policy.

The most ominous aspect of that, in my experience, is that some estate agents have pressured vendors to accept unrealistically low offers from the purchaser of a property because they would lose considerable commission on arranging the endowment policy if the sale fell through. For that, if for no other reason, surely such an arrangement should be forbidden?

Solicitors are subject to restrictions on acting for both parties, but I wonder whether the public are fully aware that in those cases where their solicitors arrange the mortgage and endowment policy, they are legally obliged to disclose the amount of commission and to account to the

client for it in the absence of an agreement to the contrary.

Yours faithfully,
P.R. STORRY,
David Hughes & Co,
Solicitors,
Newgate Walk, The Precinct,
Chester.

From the president of the National Association of Estate Agents

Sir, The letter from Robert Foster (August 7) struck a chord. There are draft regulations, soon to be considered by Parliament, which will require estate agents to disclose at the outset to the seller whether or not they will offer, or intend to offer, any services including financial services to prospective purchasers.

It is also proposed that from January 1, 1991, it will be an undesirable practice to discriminate against a prospective purchaser where the estate agent is not, or is unlikely to be, providing other services to him.

Undesirable practices such as property misdescriptions, pretending there are higher bids for a property when there are not and failing to disclose personal interests in writing, will subject the estate agent to a warning or banning order by the director general of fair trading. My association strongly supports these proposals. Estate agents act in the best interests of the seller, and one of those interests is to ensure that the proposed purchaser has the financial ability to purchase. If the law were to forbid the seller's agent from assisting the buyer, then the seller could be seriously disadvantaged.

Under the new proposals, the seller may instruct his agent not to offer any services to a buyer and a buyer will not be pressured to take out services offered by the estate agent.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,
HUGH DUNSMORE-HARDY,
President, The National Association of Estate Agents,
Arbon House,
21 Jury Street, Warwick.

Inflationary green loans

From R.A.C. Hill

Sir, As inflation continues, there is no let up in the junk mail from banks offering loans. The latest "Barclayloan environmental special" is particularly nauseating. It consists of an application form for a loan wrapped up in a "competition" offering a parsimonious £1 to the Woodland Trust for each form signed. This is a blatant use of the environmental cachet to further disreputable loan policies. There is no environmental advantage in a bank loan which increases consumption and aggravates inflation.

The avaricious activities of the banks are so patently against the national interest that the government and Bank of England should act against them now. Yours faithfully,
R.A.C. HILL,
The Saplings,
Sildesham, Chichester,
West Sussex.

PowerGen 'mess'

From the general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association

Sir, That Mr John Wakeham (energy secretary) should reply on July 30 to my article on July 26 suggests that what I wrote went near to the bone.

My article expressed the view (which I believe is widely shared) that the government has made a terrible mess of privatising a great and efficient public industry. Mr Wakeham replied by accusing me of nostalgia, which I thought was rather beside the point. He knows very well that the trade unions in the industry have faced up to the fact that the government has the support of Parliament in proceeding with privatisation and have spent no time in seeking to recreate the public service industry we had, good though it was.

In October 1987, Mr Cecil

Parkinson (then energy secretary) was able to boast to the House of Commons that our public service electricity industry had tariffs which were "the lowest in Europe". If that is also "nostalgia" a lot of people will share it, for Mr Wakeham is unable to make any such claim today. Nor will he be able to forecast when, or even if, our electricity prices will again occupy that position as a result of privatisation.

Mr Wakeham justified his decision to encourage the Hanson bid for PowerGen with the statement that "while everything... said in Parliament... assumed a public flotation of the companies... other means of privatisation were never ruled out".

That really is scraping the barrel. When we met Mr Parkinson in May 1988, he made it absolutely clear that his undertaking to Parliament to limit any one shareholder to a 15 per cent stake was to ensure that no one person or organis-

ation should be able to dominate any of the new companies; in the case of the generating and Scottish companies this was a timeless concept.

Mr Wakeham's interest in selling PowerGen to Hanson is simply a repudiation of his own government's policy. And, since we have been assured that a public sale is still a serious option, what on earth for? Hanson has absolutely no track record in running a technologically advanced major public utility, let alone one commanding one third of our power supplies. For what purpose can Mr Wakeham be contemplating putting any outside organisation with no experience of running a major generating utility in charge of it? All he has succeeded in doing is dropping a large monkey-wrench into his own plans, which, up to then, had been going along relatively smoothly.

Mr Wakeham refers to his "attractive special share offer

to employees throughout the industry", but he should forget it. This has gone down like a lead balloon. If he really wants to encourage employee share ownership he should back our proposals, now supported by PowerGen management, for a management/employee buyout instead, as of now, allowing his department actively to try to frustrate it.

While Mr Wakeham, who is a likeable man, is not responsible for the sorry mess that privatisation of electricity has become, he is responsible for the mess over the sale of PowerGen. My advice to him is not to try to blame the unions for it, for that will not wash, but to extricate himself (and PowerGen) as quickly as he can.

Yours truly,
JOHN LYONS,
General Secretary, EMA,
Station House,
Fox Lane North,
Chertsey, Surrey.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Another way of giving legal aid

Law centres, which began to be set up in the Seventies, were meant to serve the "un-met legal needs of the underprivileged". People deterred by the cost and image of private practice solicitors could attend a community law centre, in informal surroundings, where advice on questions affecting the underprivileged could be answered.

The law centres did not have an easy ride, however. The private profession, which was fulfilling some of that need through the legal aid scheme, was unhappy about groups of publicly funded lawyers providing what it said was "a lower-quality service", and taking away some of their work.

A law centre, therefore, could exist only if it was granted a waiver by the Law Society. This would allow the centre to break the society's no-touting rules and let them advertise their work and location. The centre lawyers, in return, had to promise not to encroach on areas that provided the bread and butter, and some of the jam, of the private profession. This meant they could not be involved in adult crime, or family law, apart from emergency applications, or property matters in general, including conveyancing.



With the traditional work barriers easing between lawyers, Avrom Sherr suggests that law centres could move into wider specialities

Most centres and their lawyers were content with these strictures. They were not the areas of law in which they wanted to practise. The system worked fairly well. The private practitioners could go on with their areas of work without competing with lawyers paid a salary from local or central government or charitable sources.

Further, the private practitioners were surprised when they found that the presence of a law centre, instead of diminishing the flow of work, tended to encourage more referrals of cases that might

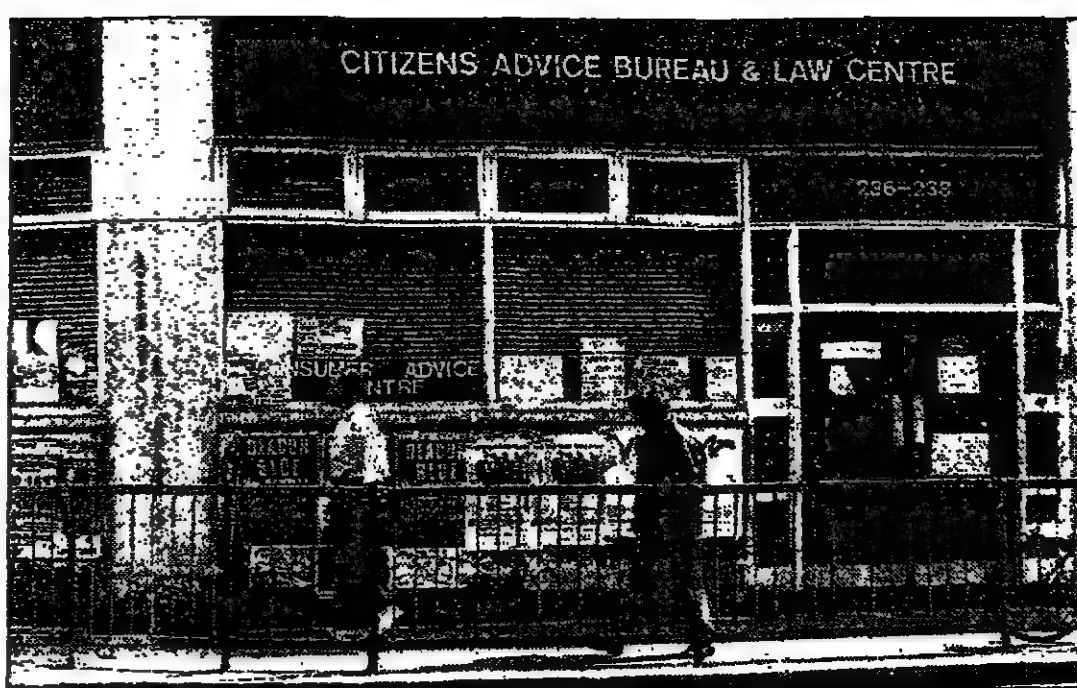
otherwise have never seen the light of day.

The environment has, however, changed. Old monopolies have begun to disappear. Conveyancing was liberalised in 1986 and the courts and legal services bill, now ready for royal assent, will allow banks and building societies to join in.

The old rules against touting and advertising also disappeared in 1986 and have been liberalised twice since then. Waivers, at least for this purpose, are probably not now necessary. Law centre social workers may be able to acquire rights of audience under the bill, and "para-legals" — people who specialise in legal work, but who are not solicitors — may be able to carry out probate work.

Legal aid work and its funding have also changed incomparably since 1970, and only half the number of people eligible for legal aid are now eligible. The work is less well-paid and, therefore, much less attractive to private practitioners.

Some kinds of legal aid work are also about to be contracted out by a new legal aid board. The old demarcation lines have gone and it is an open season on work and



A law centre in east London: is the present system the best way to offer the public legal aid?

client hunting for all lawyers.

It is interesting to see the recent suggestion by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, that young lawyers should cut their teeth on legal aid work, before working their way up to commercial and company work.

Lord Mackay is, of course, working on a barristerial model of practice life, which is very different from conditions within the solicitors' profession. Young barristers do carry out legally aided criminal law and other cases in their early careers and some of

them move on to more commercial sets of chambers, although this is not true of all barristers.

Solicitors enter articles of training with one firm in a widely differentiated profession, specialising in areas that usually service either predominantly large company and commercial clients or less wealthy individual clients and smaller businesses. It would be unusual for a lawyer trained within one increasingly specialised area to move to the other.

What of the middle ground? What about people who need legal help but are just above the income and capital limits of the legal aid scheme? Is there not a legal service that might be made available for them that they can afford?

One possibility is the legal "clinic" model of law firm in the United States, which provides specialised legal work for people of moderate means.

Setting up such clinics as private practices is starting slowly in this country. The operation depends on a high turnover of cases, carried out by groups of specialists, of whom most will be par-

legals dealing with the more time-consuming work of client-handling. The qualified lawyers are more likely to be drafting letters and instruments that will form the basis of the multi-use package.

But what then of the career structure for lawyers who start their careers within law centres or advice services? There is little natural progression for them. Do they become poacher turned gamekeeper and join the Crown Prosecution Service, or do they simply go into private practice, trying to make money out of legal aid within areas similar to those covered by the law centre?

Perhaps law centres should now take the chance to work within areas previously denied to them. This would broaden their staff experience, provide further funding, at least from legal aid money, and present more of a set of career opportunities for those entering law centre service.

They may not decide to do conveyancing, but the old lines of demarcation have disappeared and a new set of approaches to legal services for those of fairly poor and moderate means must be worked through.

Whether or not the Lord Chancellor's view is either realistic or desirable, it throws light on an important set of manpower and remuneration difficulties. Our views on these need to be re-worked within the boundaries of the new environment. Older approaches to familiar issues may not be relevant when the rest of the world is changing.

The author is director of legal practice at the School of Law, Warwick University.

Law Report August 21 1990 Court of Appeal

Guidelines for disqualifying directors after infringements of company law

In re Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton [Judgment July 31]

A court which had decided that a company director was unfit to be concerned in the management of a company and therefore that a disqualification order was to be made against him under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, was not entitled, in fixing the length of the period of disqualification, to take into account allegations of misconduct of which the director had not been found guilty.

The non-payment by a company of sums due to the Crown in respect of pay-as-you-earn, national insurance contributions, collectively known as Crown debts, was not automatically to

be regarded as evidence of unfitness of the director.

The Court of Appeal, giving guidance in the first appeal against a disqualification order which had come to that court, so stated in reserved judgments when reducing to five years a disqualification order which had been imposed on Mr Michael Charles Cruddas by Mr Justice Harman on November 13, 1989.

Section 6 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) The court shall make a disqualification order against a person in any case where, on an application under this section, it is satisfied — (a) that he is or has been a director of a company which has at any time become insolvent, and (b) that his conduct as a director of that company (either taken alone or taken together with his conduct as a director of any other company or companies) makes him unfit to be con-

cerned in the management of a company".

Mr Alan Steinfield, QC and Miss Juliette Walker for Mr Cruddas; Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr Martin Keenan for the Official Receiver.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that Mr Cruddas, a chartered accountant, and a Mr Hooker, who had originally been a lorry driver, had been directors of five trading companies, one of which was Sevenoaks Stationers (Retail) Ltd. The companies had become insolvent and gone into liquidation, with a total net deficiency of nearly £600,000.

A three-year disqualification was imposed on Mr Hooker by Mr Registrar Buckley before Mr Cruddas's case was heard. It followed from the provisions in the Act that if a judge was going to disqualify a person he had to be satisfied, *inter alia*,

that the person's conduct "made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company". The first point taken in the appeal was that the judge had not specifically made such a finding, and therefore that the order should be set aside, whatever Mr Cruddas's shortcomings.

However, taking the judgment as a whole, there was no doubt that the judge was so satisfied.

The main point urged on the appeal was that the period of seven years was too long. It had been argued that since the disqualification order had been made by the judge in his discretion, the appellate court could not interfere on the grounds set out in *G v G (Minors: Custody Appeal)* [(1985) 1 WLR 647] or *Hadnor Productions Ltd v Hamilton* [(1983) 1 AC 191]. His Lordship did not wholly

share that view in the present case, as guidelines had not yet been laid down and fairness required that there should be a degree of similarity between the periods of disqualification imposed by different judges or courts for similar offences.

His Lordship was disturbed by statistics which showed that in 1989 and the first six months of 1990 many more disqualifications for more than five years had been imposed in county courts than in the High Court. It would be surprising if cases brought in the High Court were significantly less serious than those brought in the county court.

Section 6(4) of the 1986 Act provided that the minimum period of disqualification was two years, and the maximum 15 years. His Lordship endorsed the suggestion that the potential 15-year disqualification period should be divided into three

brackets: 1 The top bracket, for periods over 10 years, should be reserved for particularly serious cases, which might include cases where a director who had already had one period of disqualification fell to be disqualified yet again.

2 The bracket of two to five years should be applied where, although disqualification was mandatory, the case was relatively not very serious.

3 The intermediate bracket should apply for serious cases which did not merit the top bracket.

The test, "makes him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company", involved ordinary words which should be simple to apply in most cases. It was most important to hold to those words in each case.

His Lordship deplored what seemed to have been the tendency of the allegations on the part of the bar, and possibly also of the Official Receiver's Department, to treat statements in reported cases as judicial paraphrases of the statutory words which fell to be construed as a matter of law in lieu of the words of the statute.

In *In re Lo-Line Electric Motors Ltd* [(1988) Ch 477, 486], Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, said that it was necessary that the director should know the substance of the charges that he had to meet.

He said: "The practice of the Official Receiver is to summarise the allegations of misconduct on which he is going to rely in the affidavit in support. This procedure is plainly both desirable and necessary."

That was not merely good practice; it was a requirement of the statutory rules made under the Act. The difficulty remained that, as a result of evidence subsequently filed or for some other reason, the Official Receiver might wish to change the nature of the allegations on which he was going to rely, or to add further allegations.

The court had a discretion to allow the Official Receiver to rely on the altered or additional allegations provided that he did not do so without notice to the accused director. What justice required would depend on the circumstances of the particular case: the paramount requirement was that the director must know the charges he had to meet.

Mr Charles submitted that even if in making out his case for disqualification the Official Receiver could only rely on the allegations made in his report and/or affidavit, yet when the court came to fix the length of the period of disqualification it could take into account any other shortcomings in the director's conduct as a director, in other words, the director could be sentenced not only on the charges on which he had been convicted, but also on charges which were never made against him, if they happened to be made out in the evidence given.

His Lordship emphatically disagreed. It would be wholly wrong if in fixing the period of disqualification other matters could be alleged of which no notice had been given.

Matters of mitigation could of course be taken into account in favour of the director, but otherwise the period should be fixed by reference only to the matters properly alleged against him which had been found to be established and to make him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

His Lordship considered the allegations against Mr Cruddas in relation to each of the five companies, which had been properly summarised in a report by the Deputy Official Receiver, Mr Bennett.

They included failure to keep proper accounting records of one company. Failure to file annual returns with the Registrar of Companies, causing a loan to be made by one company to another when Mr Cruddas knew or ought to have known that there was no prospect of repayment, misrepresenting the trading position of a company to a creditor, causing companies to continue to trade while insolvent, and the retention of Crown debts.

Although the allegations were substantially proved, unfortunately the judge, in an extremely poor judgment after a hearing throughout which Mr Cruddas had appeared in person, had found further allegations established which had not been made in Mr Bennett's report.

In particular, he had found a failure to keep proper accounting records, in respect of other companies, which had not been established by the evidence.

The next issue was that of Crown debts. There had been a considerable difference in approach by various judges of the Chancery Division to the significance of Crown debts in relation to the disqualification of directors.

Mr Justice Harman in the present case said there was a total of Crown debts outstanding of the order of £120,000. He said: "It is in my judgment a badge of commercial immorality to cause moneys which have been taken under force of law from third parties . . . to be paid over to the Crown."

In earlier cases the same judge had regarded such debts as "quasi-trust moneys". That view had not been followed by other judges, and the Official Receiver did not seek to resurrect it.

His Lordship entirely agreed with the different view expressed by Mr Justice Hoffmann in *In re Dawson Print Group Ltd* [(1987) BCLC 601, 604]: "The fact is that, no doubt for good reasons, the Exchequer and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise have chosen to appoint traders to be tax collectors on their behalf with the attendant risk, that risk is, to some extent, compensated by the preference which they have on insolvency."

"There is, as yet, no obligation on traders to keep such moneys in a separate account as there might be if they really were trust moneys. They are simply a debt owed by the company to the Revenue or the Commissioners of Customs and Excise."

"I cannot accept that failure to pay these debts is regarded in the commercial world generally as such a breach of commercial morality that it requires in itself a conclusion that the directors concerned are unfit to be involved in the management of the company."

His Lordship apprehended that the current consensus of the Chancery Division judges was expressed in a passage in *Lo-Line* (at pp487-488), which concluded: "Although the Crown debts are not strictly trust moneys, the failure to pay them over does not only prejudice the Crown, as creditor, but in the case of PAYE and national insurance, may also have a prejudicial effect on the company's employees."

"I consider the use of the moneys which should have been paid to the Crown to finance continuation of an insolvent company's business more culpable than the failure to pay commercial debts."

There would be validity in that if it were correct that the failure to pay over to the Crown moneys deducted from the wages of employees might have a prejudicial effect on the employees.

Enquiries made by both parties in the present appeal had, however, disclosed that no such prejudice was to be found.

The Inland Revenue rightly accepted that the failure by a director by the employer, as the Crown's appointed collector, to pay over to the Crown moneys deducted for PAYE or national insurance contributions must fall on the Crown and not on the employees, the employees were credited with what had been deducted from their wages even though what had been deducted had not been paid over to the Crown.

It was appropriate that Mr Cruddas's period of disqualification should be longer than that imposed on Mr Hooker, as the absence of proper financial control, which was Mr Cruddas's responsibility, was the main reason for the failure of the five companies.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Treasury Solicitor.

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THE LAW

Much ado about concession

As the Lord Chancellor's reform bill clears the Commons and nears its royal assent, Frances Gibb looks at possible winners and losers, and explains why the battle is not over

People could be forgiven for wondering whether lawyers have managed to kill stone dead the Lord Chancellor's reforms of the legal profession. Since the green papers came out 18 months ago, the vitriolic rhetoric from the judges and the Bar — "the most sinister document to emanate from government" — has subsided. But what has happened to the proposals that were heralded as the biggest reforms of the profession this century or, depending on the viewpoint, as portending the death of the independent Bar and state control of the courts?

Just before the lawyers left for the summer vacation, the courts and legal services bill completed its passage in the Commons. It is now on course for royal assent in the autumn, and already verdicts are being pronounced.

Tony Holland, the newly elected president of the Law Society, the professional body of the 60,000 solicitors in England and Wales, has called the bill tame; a pale shadow of the excitement captured in the green papers. The original proposals, he says, promised to deliver so much. What has emerged is disappointingly diluted.

Both original and present reforms are about breaking monopolies and widening consumer choice in the way legal services are delivered. Yet, despite this wide remit, it has been the question of advocacy rights — where sectional rivalry between

the profession's two branches is keenest — that has provoked most debate. Lawyers, or judges, have dominated the debates in both Houses: in the Commons, Labour's frontbench lawyers, who were expected to align themselves with consumer interests, often found common cause with their profession. The club, one observer noted, was more powerful than the party.

The lobby was a formidable one. The Bar moved away from its high profile, arguably over-zealous, campaign against the government's reforms en bloc and instead sustained a dogged opposition on points of detail, which achieved a number of, albeit small, changes to its advantage. The biggest of these was to have included in the bill the much-vaunted cab-rank rule, under which advocates must take cases in strict rotation. This will put solicitor-advocates under the same obligation as barristers: they will be unable to refuse any case because of its nature, opinions of the client or the source of its funding.

But the victory ended there. The Bar failed to persuade the government to ensure solicitor-advocates will not be able to refuse a legal aid case because of inadequate pay, despite attempts to force its hand by publicly stating that barristers were so bound. As one official put it, "if anything would have been state control, an obligation to do legal aid work would have been it". However, it was not in the bill's passage



that the real changes of substance were obtained. There is no doubt that, overall, Lord Mackay has succeeded in preserving his bill largely intact. In part, that is because the fundamental concessions had already been made. It was in the crucial gap between green and white papers last summer that he bowed to his critics; in particular, the special debate last spring in the Lords, when senior judges one by one castigated the proposals, had its effect. The resulting white paper was a substantial retreat and the bill reflected that.

Out went the hated proposal for a complex licensing system for advocates, attacked as encroachment by the executive on the judiciary. Also out were proposals for barristers and solicitors to form partnerships and for the public to have direct access to barristers (not just through a solicitor). Both measures, which would have been a marked step towards a fused profession, are now up to the profession itself to determine.

Finally, the judges were brought into the picture. They acquired a key role in approving, with the Lord

Chancellor, the new rules that will allow solicitor-advocates into the higher courts.

So what is left for the consumer? How have such changes diminished the impact of the reforms?

Despite impressions, the bill is about more than sectional battles on rights of audience. Much of it concerns down-loading a bulk of cases from higher to lower courts so that disputes can be handled at a lower tier of the civil justice system. In time, that should cut delays and costs.

Second, opening up the conveyancing market to banks and building societies will give the house buyer the chance to "one-stop shop", getting all his services under one roof if he wants; although the concern remains that such supermarket services could drive out the solicitor "corner shops".

Third, a limited form of "no win, no fee" scheme is coming in, along Scottish lines, enabling lawyers to defer their fees in certain cases and take an uplift at the end if successful. Lastly, there is the question of

advocacy rights. Far fewer consumers are likely to benefit from changes which allow a choice of advocate than from changes to conveyancing. Yet these reforms are at the heart of the bill. The outcome is a measure, more than any other, of the extent to which the government has taken on the profession and won.

In publishing his proposals, Lord Mackay made clear he intended to end the long-running dispute between the two branches of the profession on advocacy rights. The profession's own failure to abolish what had become a publicly festering sore was one main reason the bill came forward at all.

In the Law Society's view, however, the risk remains "that after all the rhetoric, the bill will settle very little". Any progress on rights of audience could yet be frustrated by the reluctance of the judges to see the Bar's monopoly of these rights in the higher courts broken. The judges could still thwart the reforms.

It could be years before consumers enjoy the full benefits of the reforms. But whether they do, rather than when, depends crucially on this next stage of drawing up the ground rules, and both branches are already preparing for battle.

The government has put the ball back in the profession's court. It has not directly legislated for change, but rather created the machinery for it, through a complex system of consultation between the profession, judges, the director-general of fair trading, the Lord Chancellor and his proposed new law-dominated advisory committee.

The appointments to this committee, and its chairman, are critical. The machinery must then show it can deliver the promised goods.

● The author is the Legal Affairs Correspondent of The Times.

INNS AND OUTS

Crying for Argentina

Amnesty International's lawyers group has called on its members to join a campaign against the reintroduction of the death penalty in Argentina, which hosted the last biennial International Bar Association conference in September 1988. The choice of Buenos Aires was in part a recognition of the enormous improvements in human rights in Argentina under the then president, Raúl Alfonsín. The proposal to reintroduce the death penalty, which was abolished for ordinary criminal offences in 1984 after the country returned to civilian rule in the wake of the Falklands war, is a personal campaign by the new president, Carlos Menem.

Lawyers involved with Amnesty have been asked to appeal to senior members of both of Argentina's main political parties, pointing out that the reintroduction of the death penalty would put Argentina in breach of the international treaty obligations it assumed by ratifying the American Convention on Human Rights in 1984. If the death penalty is reinstated, Argentina will be the first member of the Organisation of American States to act in breach of the treaty, which will set a dangerous precedent in the region.

The American Bar Association has announced the launch of a Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (Ceeli). The ABA says this is the biggest external project to be undertaken by the association. James Silkman, the chairman of the Section of International Law and Practice, says: "This may be the model for what United Kingdom and other European lawyers eventually will work towards in Eastern Europe."

The initiative will assist East European countries in the process of modifying or restructuring their laws and legal systems. Working on the premise that a commercial legal infrastructure will facilitate economic integration into the global economy, Ceeli will set up an institute located in an East European city to act as a conference and workshop centre.

Ceeli's aim is to help countries achieve an independent judiciary, constitutional reforms, guarantees of basic human rights and protection from arbitrary government actions.

The announcement follows the June meeting in Istanbul of the ministers of justice of the Council of Europe, when it agreed to set up a mechanism to assist the eastern bloc in reforming laws to democratic standards. It can only be hoped that the beneficiaries of all this multinational advice are able to develop a suitable system for their individual countries.

Barristers suffering post-holiday blues can cheer themselves up with a late booking to the annual Bar conference at the New Connaught Rooms in London on September 22 and 23. Solicitors are not invited, even though one of the workshops on the first day seems to advocate a robust approach to deregulation at the Bar.

Workshop F, "New methods and new markets — how to flourish post-Mackay", claims that "immense personal and professional benefits will flow to any barrister who takes full advantage of modern techniques and recent changes in the code of conduct — we show you how!"

Other sessions will cover legislative milestones such as the Children Act, "green" law, the inevitable 1992, now renamed "the new market" and video-conferencing, tipped as "bringing the Bar to the people, here and abroad". Who could resist?

The old saying that lawyers benefit whatever the climate is proving true. As the international force lines up eyeball to eyeball with Iraq's forces along the Kuwaiti border, the lawyers in firms such as Lovell White Durrant, Norton Rose and Linklaters & Paines are beefing up on the law of *force majeure* in anticipation of a flood of work relating to the invasion of Kuwait.

SCRIVENOR

Henry Whitcomb lifts the lid of the long-simmering compensation cauldron

Selling accident victims short

THE accusation in a report by the Institute of Economic Affairs that judges are selling accident victims short has reopened a debate over low compensation levels that has been simmering for at least 20 years.

The controversy centres on the method used to assess an injured person's future financial losses, the bulk of which normally consist of his or her loss of earnings and the cost of medical care.

The guiding principle in compensating for injury is simple: it should, as far as money can, place the victim in the same position as he or she would have been if the wrong had not been sustained.

Yet the report's author, Dr Cezio Veljanovski, says that the "unsophisticated and inte-

uitive" method used by the courts has consistently failed to achieve this aim: that the judges have blatantly refused to employ standard financial techniques when calculating personal injury damages, with the result that accident victims have been severely under-compensated.

He cites an example in which a claimant would have received two and a half times the amount awarded if a principled arithmetical approach had been adopted.

Criticism of the way in which compensation is as-

sessed is not new. In 1979, the Pearson royal commission report on civil liability and compensation for personal injury stated that "lump sums calculated on the present basis are unlikely to provide full year by year replacement of the plaintiff's loss of income".

Further, David Kemp, QC, author of the lawyers' bible on damages, *Kemp and Kemp*, has campaigned for years for a change in the judges' approach. He believes that the principle of full compensation has been prejudiced by inflexible and unsound evidence-

rules of thumb which effectively exclude the use of expert actuarial and economic advice.

For claimants, faced with the prospect of their compensation being eroded by inflation, the situation is far from satisfactory. The introduction of index-linked periodic payments is undoubtedly the best solution. However, structured settlements are likely to take several years to gain widespread acceptance, and even then, claimants may still opt for part or all of the award or settlement to be in the

traditional lump sum form.

It seems inevitable that if justice is to be done and the injured fully compensated for their losses, the judges must use the best information and advice available to them. In the most complex case, this may mean more general acceptance of actuarial as expert witnesses.

In the majority of claims, however, actuarial tables produced specifically for personal injury litigation could be used as the primary basis of assessment.

This is hardly a radical

move, considering that the tables were drawn up more than five years ago by the government actuary's department, acting on the unanimous recommendations of a working party, chaired by Sir Michael Ogden, QC, and which included representatives of the Faculty and the Institute of Actuaries, the Faculty of Advocates, the Bar and both Law Societies.

Given the tables' pedigree, it is incomprehensible that the judges have not felt able to use them instead of the existing arbitrary method of calculating damages.

Simply, under-compensation is too high a price for further judicial caution.

● The author is a member of the Citizen Action Compensation Campaign.

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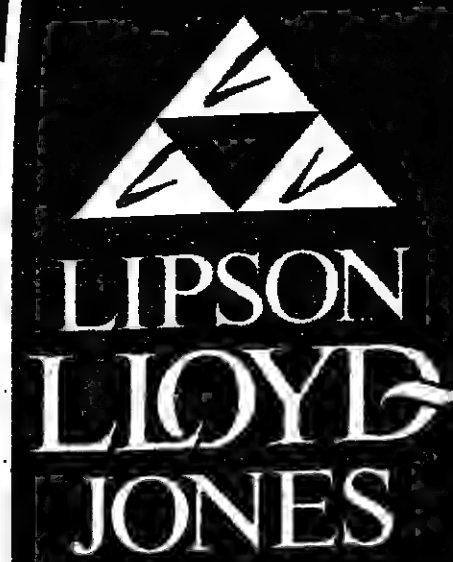
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To £35K + Substantial Benefits + Car

Experience of financial services regulatory matters is also required.

Salary will depend on age and experience and benefits include a company car, subsidised mortgage scheme, profit sharing after a qualifying period, pension scheme, subsidised lunches. Relocation assistance will be provided where appropriate.

There are excellent prospects for promotion within the company.

Please send your CV to Mrs E Wallford, Commercial Union Assurance Co plc, UK Personnel Department, Exchange Court, 3 Bedford Park, Croydon, Surrey, CR9 2ZL.

Commercial Union Life Assurance Company Limited is a member of LAUTRO



ASSURANCE

CU is an Equal Opportunities Employer

WESTWARD-HO!

The chance to combine a genuinely commercial caseload with all the intrinsic benefits of living away from the hectic South East must surely be a rare one. Our client offers just such an opportunity to a young and enthusiastic solicitor with the energy to tackle a very varied workload. The present bias is towards development and industrial property matters, but the Commercial Department of the firm is a strong one and anticipates the continuing expansion of its general company and commercial business. Future prospects are first rate and there is plenty of support for those still learning their trade. The salary range will be between £17,000 and £25,000.

For further and better particulars, why not contact Anita Amies to make an appointment. Telephone on 071-405 4161 or alternatively write to her at Reuter Simkin Limited, Recruitment Consultants, 5 Breems Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY. All replies will be answered promptly and in total confidence.

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GLoucester, SWINDON

City - Company/Commercial - £60,000

Progressive and respected 20 partner firm requires a solicitor, at least five years qualified, with Yellow Book experience and an ability to handle a broad range of corporate work. Early partnership prospects.

Lincoln's Inn - Pensions - £26,000

Large Inn's firm requires a newly qualified solicitor with an interest in the rapidly developing field of pensions. Training will be provided therefore no previous experience is required.

City - Company/Commercial - £45,000

25 partner rapidly developing City firm requires a solicitor two to four years qualified to handle predominantly private company and general commercial work. Excellent prospects for partnership.

City - Commercial Litigation - Newly Qualified

Medium sized City firm with an expanding litigation department requires a newly qualified solicitor to handle a range of commercial disputes including insurance and re-insurance work.

Oxford - Commercial Conveyancing - c £55,000

Major practice in this town requires a solicitor at least 4 years qualified with experience of development work for major retail and development companies. Excellent prospects for partnership.

Evening Tel. No: (081) 646 4955

Garfield Robbins

Legal Recruitment and Search Consultants, 21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH
Nicholas Robbins or Gavin Crocker on (071) 405 1123 or evenings (081) 646 4955

HERTFORDSHIRE MAGISTRATES' COURTS' COMMITTEE

Staveage and North Hertfordshire Divisions

COURT CLERK

Court Clerk Salary Scale CC 8 - 17 + supplement
(£14,292 - £19,377 plus £2,000)
(PAY AWARD PENDING)

Applications are invited from Barristers, Solicitors and other persons qualified under the Justices' Clerks (Qualifications of Assistants) Rules 1979.

Hertfordshire has good road and rail connections which provide easy access to London and many parts of the country. The post is based at Staveage and courts are held at Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Stevenage. The appointee will be required to take courts at any of the court houses and a casual user car allowance is payable.

Applicants should be competent to take courts without supervision, and the top five points of the salary scale will be reserved for persons with experience in taking all types of courts. The minimum salary for a Barrister or Solicitor is £18,401 plus supplement. The appointee will also be required to undertake certain administrative duties in a busy court environment.

A generous relocation package exists which can amount to in excess of £9,000 including mortgage subsidy, removal expenses etc. and the J.A.C. Conditions of Service will apply.

Further information may be obtained by telephoning my Deputy Mr. Bowditch on Staveage (0438) 743111. Application forms are obtainable from my Secretary and must be returned by the 7th September 1990.

The Court House
Staveage,
Herts. SG1 1JH.

David Barker
Clerk to the Justices

LONDON LAW APPOINTMENTS LTD

CONSTRUCTION LAW

£30-60,000. We are instructed by a number of City and central London practices who wish to recruit construction law specialists. Whether you deal with contentious or non-contentious matters, or would prefer to handle a mixture of both, prospects for lawyers in this area of law are excellent. Ideally, you should have two to three years experience, although Solicitors with commercial law, or newly qualified, with a genuine desire to develop a career in construction will be considered. At a more senior level, we would be particularly interested to hear from a senior contentious construction lawyer wishing to join a well respected medium sized firm with an excellent reputation in property matters.

2yr CORPORATE SOLICITORS

c. £35,000. A number of practices are currently seeking corporate Solicitors approaching the end of their second year of post qualification. Opportunities exist in general company and commercial work as well as various specialisations such as corporate finance, financial services, capital markets and banking. A particular vacancy, as an example, exists with a medium sized City firm to handle a range of financing work with particular emphasis on media related matters. If this or any of the above areas would appeal as a career move, please call for more information.

BANKING & FINANCE

£28-40,000. The range of current opportunities in banking and finance law for Solicitors with between 1 and 4 years relevant experience is typified by a vacancy with one of the most respected banking departments in London. The quality of work is unlikely to be bettered anywhere, and, accordingly a young Solicitor will gain excellent experience of this expanding area of law. For more details please call us on 071 497 1112.

3rd Floor, 41 Kingsway, London WC2B 6UD
Telephone 071-497 1112 Fax 071-497 0406

A LAWYER WITH FLAIR

£27-35,000. Continuing their expansion plans into the '90s, this very friendly central London practice has an opportunity for a Solicitor of 1-3 years post to assist the insurance services group (6 fee earners) of its commercial litigation department. All of the work is of a quality nature and will include some employment and non-employment contractual disputes, although there is a bias towards professional indemnity claims work. The successful candidate will be highly motivated - and wholeheartedly committed to providing a first class legal service working with a quality team where future prospects are excellent.

PTN DESIGNATE - 2 YRS PQE+ to £40,000.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a young solicitor, keen to develop experience in private client work and attain early partnership, with this reputable and friendly medium sized West End firm. A varied and interesting caseload shall include advising on personal taxation problems and the setting up of offshore trusts for an international clientele. Ideally you will have some relevant experience in these areas with a central London firm, plus a strong academic background and a desire to progress swiftly to partnership status.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

c.£45,000. Our client, a top City firm, regard themselves as a leading practice and second to none in its chosen fields. A position has arisen for a lawyer with around four years relevant experience to join their small but expanding I.P. department. Applications are invited from candidates who seek a higher profile in an environment that affords ample opportunity to deal with a full range of quality I.P. and patent work and where prospects are expected to be excellent.

HALIFAX COMMERCIAL LAWYER

Competitive Salary + Car + Other
Financial Sector Benefits

The Halifax is very proud of its position as the largest building society in the world. We have achieved this through a commitment to quality and innovation in the financial services market.

Based in Halifax our legal department provides a comprehensive legal service to all levels of management and the Board and has treated in size over the last six years.

We are looking for a full time solicitor to join the department qualified for 3-5 years. Experience in the following areas of commercial lending would be beneficial:

- negotiating and drafting mortgage documentation;
- advising on commercial loans to companies, housing associations, developers and joint ventures;
- advising on LIBOR, fixed rate, deferred payment and similar lending arrangements.

In addition to an attractive salary there are a range of benefits which include:

- subsidised mortgage;
- profit related bonus scheme and performance related pay;
- contributory pension scheme;
- free BUPA membership;
- relocation assistance.

Please reply in writing marked "Private" with a full C.V. to:

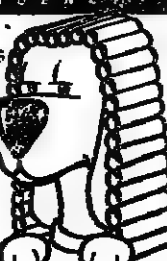
Chris Jowett, Group Solicitor, Halifax Building Society, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 2RG.

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PRIVATE PRACTICE

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

TO £35,000. Our client is a small, highly successful West End practice. They require a young commercial property lawyer, 1-3 years' admitted, to assist a partner. Future prospects with this busy firm are excellent.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

TO £30,000. This East London partnership based in modern premises need an ambitious, commercially minded litigator c.2-3 years' post to handle a range of commercial litigation. They are especially interested in those with experience of employment and contractual property issues.

OXFORD/LITIGATION

TO £25,000. A first class litigator with 2-3 years' post is sought by this firm to handle a range of commercial litigation. They are especially interested in those with experience of employment and contractual property issues.

The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. If you would like to discuss any of these or any other aspect of your career, please telephone

Laurence Simons, Shona McDougall or Patrick Alford

071-831 3270

(071-483 1899 evenings/weekends)

Or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Walk, London WC1N 2NS.

We are qualified lawyers with extensive experience in legal recruitment and all approaches are treated in strict confidence.

COMMERCE/INDUSTRY

ASST. CO. SEC.

TO £35,000 + BANK BENEFITS. A fully qualified chartered secretary is sought to join this financial institution based in Surrey. Applicants, aged between 30-35, will handle the full range of secretarial matters in a small head office team.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER

TO £24,000 + BANK BENEFITS. A new position has been created for a compliance officer to join this major financial group based in the City. Applicants, either solicitors, barristers or graduates, must have some "hands on" compliance experience.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

TO £20,000 + MORTGAGE. This well known financial group based in Bucks has a current requirement for a young commercial conveyancing lawyer. Applicants will handle a range of work with an emphasis on residential and leasehold.

TRADE MARKS PRACTITIONER

Owing to the continued expansion of our trade mark practice R.G.C. Jenkins & Co, a London based firm of patent agents, need another professional person with trade mark experience to work at partner level in the firm.

We are looking for a trade mark agent, patent agent or a person with the relevant legal qualifications and trade mark experience.

The work will entail responsibility for the world wide trade mark portfolios of major corporate clients and the ability to supervise assistants.

Salary will be from £35,000 upwards depending on experience.

Please write to: Gerry Sales, RGC Jenkins & Co, 26 Cannon Street, London SW1H 0RL.

LEGAL RESOURCES LOCUMS

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For further information, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on

071 242 6321 (fax 071 831 7121) or send your CV to us at

75 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8US.

CONSTRUCTION

Practice City

Our client is a thriving and expanding firm with more than 30 partners, internationally renowned as legal advisers to the Building/Engineering industries. The firm is developing its Construction Department and has identified 3 new positions, which it now seeks to fill:

1 - 3 PQE Litigator - to £40,000

NQ - 2 PQE Non-Contentious - to £35,000

Legal Exec. - to £25,000

Candidates will be considered from a range of backgrounds; however commitment, personality and ability are of equal importance.

For further information, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on

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PARTNER, W1

Comm. Lit. £45K

An outstanding career opportunity exists for a 3-5 year qualified Solicitor with personality and ambition to join the established and growing Litigation Department of this five partner Commercial Law firm.

This is a real chance to take over and develop a high quality caseload, which includes Comm. Prop. Litigation and I.P., in a modern, profitable and successful firm, for whom the 1990's hold great promise.

The ideal candidate will have handled a quality caseload of general commercial litigation and possess both flair and ambition. A following will certainly be an advantage, though by no means essential.

For further information, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on

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HORIZONS

Personnel win policy power

Throughout Europe, young specialists in human resources are having more say in corporate decisions, Neil Harris writes



Skills shortages, demographic trends and the advent of a Europe in which the movement of staff from one country to another will increase are having a profound effect on the training, career development and influence of personnel managers.

A report, "International Strategic Human Resource Management", recently published by the Price Waterhouse Cranfield Project, found that personnel managers are large members in 87 per cent of large companies in Sweden and 63 per cent in Britain but a mere 19 per cent in West Germany. Only half of the companies in the UK involve personnel staff in initial discussions on corporate strategy, yet for many companies the payroll is by far the biggest cost and the organisation's ability to take on new commercial ventures often depends on whether trained staff will be available.

The changes to which personnel officers are having to adapt include moves towards flexible working hours, job-sharing and career breaks. Short-term contracts and the individualisation of pay bargaining are increasingly replacing fixed pay scales. Trade union influence is growing in West Germany and Sweden, but has declined in France and the UK. Employers now talk directly to their workforces much more than previously, rather than relying on trade unions to fulfil this role.

These changes are likely to lead to a devolution of personnel responsibilities to line managers. Personnel specialists will act more as policy-makers and less as systems administrators. The PWC

project predicts that a new kind of personnel professional will emerge, one groomed for a "pivotal role" instead of being regarded merely as a service to management within the organisation. Some current personnel functions may be taken over by line managers, and the effectiveness of policies will be monitored by personnel professionals in line with mainstream corporate objectives.

How will this affect the training of those entering the profession? A new course has been set up for

would-be personnel managers, based on management skills. Judy Whitaker of the Institute of Personnel Management (IPM), says: "The government's Training Agency has studied the competences needed to be successful in management. We have developed and piloted a foundation course, based on the competences required. The first year was a success and nearly 90 colleges nationwide will be offering the course this autumn."

The new course focuses on

management skills. Participants gain an understanding of management processes, the corporate environment, human resource management and management information systems. Acquiring knowledge is only part of it; learning decision-making, problem-solving skills and the art of good communication are just as important.

Those wanting to start a career in personnel management will find the competition severe, but there are several ways to approach

personnel training. A course of study, such as the IPM foundation course or a relevant postgraduate degree, helps people who want a job as a trainee in recruitment, training or another personnel role.

Some enter the field after a career in another management job, moving from research and development, for example, to work as a personnel officer dealing with staff in that area.

In the past, obtaining a secretarial job in a personnel department has provided access to the personnel career ladder but, as the role moves further towards the development and implementation of management policy and away from the administration of established schemes, this route may vanish.

Few go straight from a degree course into a job as a trainee personnel officer. Those who do tend to be articulate, mature, good at arguing a case and presenting it on paper, and willing to understand the attitudes of different groups of people.

As the European Community develops, the personnel role is bound to change. Already there is full employment in Sweden, and Denmark has an oversupply of engineers and computer professionals.

In the UK, unemployment is still high but there are shortages in these fields.

Such differences provide business opportunities for the human resource professional to add value to the businesses they serve. They also offer the chance for many to develop their careers in personnel management in new and uncharted territory.



Involved in all areas and levels of a big company: Paul McAvo

Talking to universities

Paul McAvo's first experience of human resources management was gained in the training department of a large oil company. "With the help of a consultant," he says, "I was responsible for evaluating all the training in the company. The project resulted in four courses being developed. One, on business awareness, aims to improve our employee's perceptions of key business decisions by looking at the areas of economics, marketing, business strategy and finance."

"Out of this evaluation came another main project, based on the view that training needs analysis, I developed, organised and ran a series of workshops for managers to help them identify their subordinates' training needs. The exercise was useful for me because I quickly got to know many of our managers."

"Career development was another part of my first job at the oil company. I wrote a careers opportunities booklet, which

identified key career development positions within the company. It was designed to help people who have two or more years' experience in the company to make important career decisions."

"An MBA in marketing and personnel from Queen's University, Belfast, and a sabbatical year with the Industrial Society were the qualifications and experience that helped me to make a start in personnel."

"I am now in my second job with the same company: adviser, recruitment and development, and helping line managers with the vital task of staff selection. I am involved in all areas and levels of the company: helping managers recruit everyone, from students to graduates and more experienced people."

"Possibly the most interesting part of my current job is the university-liaison element within graduate recruitment. Good graduates are the finite resource and my company wants the best."

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

THE POLYTECHNIC OF WALES POLITECHNIG CYMRU

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER
Salary up to £24k

Are you innovative and enthusiastic yet logical and determined? Have you successful project management experience in development and support of management information systems?

Do you possess the interpersonal and management skills to lead a talented group responsible for the development and support of administrative systems to Directorates, Faculty and Departmental levels?

The Polytechnic of Wales wishes to appoint an experienced MIS professional to help meet the exciting challenges of corporate status and modularisation of courses at one of Wales' premier Higher Education Institutions. The campus is located in the midst of beautiful South Wales countryside within easy reach of the thriving capital city of Cardiff.

Existing services, which include financial management and student record systems, are based on DEC-VAX systems and networked PCs connected to the campus-wide Fibernet network. The appointee will play a leading role in the selection and development of corporate databases, and in the strengthening of financial and personnel management systems, to enable the affairs of the Polytechnic to be managed effectively and efficiently.

An honours graduate with 6 years experience in computing, at least 2 of which have been spent in an MIS environment, is sought for this important post. A detailed knowledge of modern systems design methodologies using 4 GLs and a proven track record in system implementation is expected. Experience in a VMS and/or UNIX environment with particular reference to Higher Education applications is desirable.

If you wish to discuss the post on an informal basis, please call Mr. R. Cobby, the Head of the Information Technology Centre, on ext. 2400. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from:

The Personnel Unit,
The Polytechnic of Wales
PONTYPRIDD,
Mid Glamorgan
CF37 1DL
Telephone: (0443) 480480 ext 2021
CLOSING DATE: 7 September 1990

The Polytechnic
of Wales

OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

CITY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT PRINCIPAL AUDIT MANAGER SYSTEMS REVIEW/PROBITY (REF NO 143) P028 £23499 - £25038 PER ANNUM

The opportunity has now been taken to reorganise the Audit Section (11 staff in Systems Review/Probit, Capital, Computer and Benefits Audit Teams) in readiness for the anticipated legislation concerning competition for financial services. Part of this reorganisation has involved a commitment to introduce a system of Service Level Agreements for all audits with effect from 1st April 1991.

The successful candidate will be expected to make a major contribution to the changing process as well as be responsible for the general day to day supervision of the Audit Section. He/she will also deputise for the Assistant City Treasurer (Audit) in periods of his absence taking charge of all matters concerning the Internal Audit Section in such instances.

Other duties include the responsibility for systems review and the management of the regularly audit team (total 4 staff), with particular emphasis on the motivation and guidance of team members.

The post offers an ideal opportunity to gain experience in audit management, especially when deputising for the Assistant City Treasurer (Audit).

The City Council is looking for a controlled, forward looking Accountant who feels able to play an influential role in a changing audit environment. Applicants must be CIPFA (other CCAB applicants will be considered) with a minimum of 2 years financial experience at a senior level in the Public Sector. It is important that the successful applicant is capable of effective communication with Members and Officers at all levels.

If you would like an informal chat about the Post or the work involved, please contact Alan Stone, Assistant City Treasurer (Audit) on Oxford (0865) 248611 extension 63250.

Closing date: 31st August 1990.
Our generous benefits package includes:-

- * Flexitime
- * Job share provision
- * Generous relocation package up to £5500 in approved cases including where applicable mortgage assistance scheme
- * Maternity/paternity support provisions
- * Childcare subsidies
- * Pension scheme

Application forms and further particulars are available from the Personnel Officer, 25-27 St Ebb's Street, Oxford, OX1 1SE. Telephone Oxford 252468. Your call will be received by an answering machine.

The Council Offices will be closed from Mon 27th to Tues 28th August inclusive. The employment will cease on Fri 24th Aug. 1990 at noon.

We expect all our employees to have an understanding of and commitment to our equal opportunities policies

WORKING TOWARDS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES



COUNTY SECRETARY'S

Senior Solicitor

up to £22,989

Our Child Care team delivers a high quality legal service to the Social Services Department, helping to secure the success of the Council's policies for children and families. This involves the Team - two Solicitors and a Legal Assistant - in advising case conferences and the three Child Placement Panels as well as in taking a wide variety of cases through the Courts. Good working relations with the Social Services Department have been strengthened through advice surgeries, help with training for Social Workers and the publication of a quarterly legal advice leaflet.

Following internal promotion, we are looking for a solicitor to lead this team and meet the challenge of the new Children Act. The post offers the opportunity to develop management as well as professional skills and the promise of working in all parts of the beautiful County of North Yorkshire, from the Dales to the Moors.

If you wish to discuss the post please tel David Bramhall on 0609 780780 ext 2220 or Richard Daly on ext 2415.

Serving England's Largest County

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

GREAT YARMOUTH, CHICHESTER AND NORTH WALSHAM MAGISTRATES' COURTS COURT CLERK OR SENIOR COURT CLERK

(PTS. 10-14) (PTS. 14-18)
(£15,234 to £17,592) (£17,592 to £19,974)

(Minimum £16,401 if legally qualified)

This is an opportunity to join a team of court clerks in a busy court. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the court and will be expected to perform a high standard of work.

THE JOB The successful applicant will be expected to perform a high standard of work in a busy court. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the court and will be expected to perform a high standard of work.

THE STRUCTURE North Walsham Magistrates' Courts have provided a salary structure for court clerks which is based upon experience and qualifications. To qualify as a senior court clerk, for example, you must be able to perform the duties of a court clerk and have a minimum of two years' experience as a court clerk or (b) a holder of a Diploma in Magisterial Law with four years' experience as a court clerk.

THE BENEFITS 1. Working in an area which is a delightful holiday location, renowned for its natural beauty

2. Staff will be able to participate in the County Council's car leasing scheme which has proved to be very popular

3. In March 1991 we will be moving into a modern, purpose-built court complex, overlooking the river and sea, which will provide superb facilities for both staff and court users

4. Full reimbursement of relocation expenses to appropriate cases

5. House prices have stabilized and are now on par with national average

HOW TO APPLY Please write to me giving your personal details, including qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of two referees. The closing date is 31st August 1990 (quicker information is available from Tony Henshaw on 01493 65127).

Leonard Thompson, Solicitor, Clerk to the Justices, North Sea House, 24a South Quay, Great Yarmouth, NR20 2DT.

Director of Planning

ROYAL SURREY COUNTY AND ST LUKE'S HOSPITALS

c £30,000 + performance related pay
(up to 20% over five years)

The Royal Surrey County and St Luke's Hospitals in Guildford have applied to become one of the first National Health Service Trusts.

As a leader of the field of change and innovation, we need an experienced and influential individual with a proven track record to help build on our reputation for providing high quality services.

You will have a major role in the corporate management of the Unit and will be expected to direct long and short term planning and projects in line with the aims of the Trust. You will lead the development of an information technology strategy and have close involvement in resource management and service review. Contracting for services with Health Authorities and General Practitioners will be an important part of this role.

The Royal Surrey County Hospital and St Luke's Hospital are both situated in the county town of Guildford and a relocation package would be available if required.

For further information or to discuss this post, contact Peter Murphy or Tish Harwood on 0483 61612 ext. 3230, or write to District Personnel, South West Surrey Health Authority, Farnham Road Hospital, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5LX.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Programme Manager

Information Management Technology

£21.5K

THE OPPORTUNITY

To lead and develop a major programme of Training Initiatives taking forward the IMT Strategy for training and staff development in the NHS.

The programme is funded by the NHS Management Executive and you will work closely with our Director of Strategic Programmes, Senior Managers in the NHS and Senior Civil Servants.

YOU will be an excellent communicator, highly competent in managing resources and translating ideas into practice. You will have a strong interest in IMT and a good understanding of the NHS and training issues.

You will also have a proven track record in the planning and management of complex projects and in the development of training solutions.

For further details and an application pack contact Bethan Davies, NHS Training Authority, St Bartholomew's Court, 18 Christmas Street, Bristol BS1 5BT. Tel: (0272) 291029 or 298578 (24 hour service).

Closing date: 31st August, 1990

The NHSTA is aiming to become an Equal Opportunities Employer

NHS Training Authority

CORNWALL & ISLES OF SCILLY HEALTH AUTHORITY

Primary Care & Community Services Unit

MANPOWER MANAGER

Salary: Up to £16,530pa + PRP (payrise pending) Plus Lease Car and assistance with removal expenses (where appropriate)

Are you bright, young, ambitious, computer literate and with a degree or professional qualification? We are looking for a Manpower Planner to join our small, but enthusiastic, team of personnel specialists.

The Unit has applied to become the Cornwall Community Healthcare Trust. We employ 1,800 people in more than 60 locations and we include the Ambulance Service, Community Nurses, nine Community Hospitals and various District Services.

As well as reviewing staffing levels and providing Locality Managers with an information service on all manpower issues, you will play a key role in the preparation of a new personnel package to replace Whitley Council terms and conditions.

This job offers an interesting, yet demanding, career opportunity, further training, an attractive salary and a pleasant environment in which to live and work.

For an informal discussion please contact: Bruce Tidy, (Assistant General Manager, Personnel and Training). Tel: 0726 66232.

For a job package and application form write to: The Personnel Department, Primary Care and Community Services Unit, Penryn Hospital, Penryn Road, St Austell PL26 6AA or telephone 0726 66232 ext 453. Ref: P4A.

Closing date: September 19, 1990.

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued From Facing Page

Legal Opportunities

CO COMM

ESD Commercial £25000

ESD Commercial £25000

N Hants Co Commercial £20000

Leeds Planning £20000

LITIGATION

SE Local Civil Litig £25000

Herts Civil Litig £25000

W Chester Civil Litig £20000

Worcestershire Civil Litig £20000

PROPERTY

ESD Commercial £25000

SE Local Commercial £22000

British Commercial £21000

Essex Commercial £15000

PRIVATE CLIENT

ESD Civil Litig £25000

Cambs Civil Litig £25000

Mid-Herts Prob/Litig £21000

Mersey Prob/Litig £25000

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081-360 0081



NHS

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The Times begins the countdown to the official opening of the football season on Saturday

When two into one will go Preparing to embrace a more lovable Leeds

LOUISE TAYLOR looks at the new economic equation that is ground-sharing

EVERY other Saturday, Bob Twyford piles the contents of his office into the boot of an estate car and drives the 12 miles between Bristol and Bath. For the secretary of Bristol Rovers, it represents one of many logistical difficulties involved in sharing Twerton Park with Bath City, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, who own the ground.

Promoted to the second division, Rovers regard sharing as a temporary expedient while they await the development of a new stadium in Bristol. Meantime, Twyford describes the present arrangement as "a nightmare at times".

Charlton Athletic, who lodge with Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park; Chester City, who moved in with Macclesfield this summer; and Maidstone United, tenants at Dartford, all view sharing as a similarly short-term evil. Only Rochdale, who coexist with Rochdale Hornets Rugby Club at Spotland, are thinking beyond the short-term. "For a town the size of ours, it would be nonsense to try to support two grounds," Bill Kenyon, the football club secretary, said.

Yet with the 92 League clubs all needing somehow to rustle up a collective £500 million-plus by the year 2000 to comply with the demands of Lord Justice Taylor, there is a strong argument in favour of long-term arrangements.

Ron Noades, chairman of Crystal Palace, who will be seeking a permanent partner when Charlton depart Selhurst Park, said: "We are committed to sharing. It has caused no problems, and has helped rebuild our club without involving any additional costs in pitch maintenance."

Hostility towards cohabitation is exaggerated by the fact that all those clubs involved in such arrangements are cast in the role of poor relations — the lodger renting a spare room in someone else's house.

This is hardly integration as practised by many continental clubs including in Italy, AC and Inter Milan, Genoa and Sampdoria, and Juventus and Torino, where the equality of relationships is such that their respective administrative staffs happily coexist in the corridors behind the stands of their state-of-the-art stadiums.

By contrast, all five English tenant clubs use the host ground purely as a playing arena, retaining office staff at their original home, using a separate training ground and employing their own turnstile operators and stewards. The only concession to their situation is that, in each instance, the sharing clubs jointly employ groundsmen.

At one point Charlton did move their offices to Selhurst Park but, finding themselves housed in a Portakabin adjacent to the main stand, the staff quickly repaired to their former home at The Valley.

The makeshift nature of sharing in England is not only illogical but uneconomic. Lord Justice Taylor's report into the Hillsborough disaster prompted the requirement that all



Common ground: preparing the pitch at Twerton Park, which is shared by Bath City and Bristol Rovers

first and second division stadiums be all-seated by 1994, with the remainder following suit within the next six years.

The sensible, not to mention cheap, means of accomplishing this is for neighbouring clubs to share grounds along the same committed, fully integrated lines as the Italians.

Yet, like sweater systems, permanent sharing has yet to emerge as a feature of League life. Lord Justice Taylor made it clear that there needs to be an attitude adjustment on the subject. The text of his report stresses that sharing is the rational route forward: "It seems uneconomic that a stadium should only be used by one club once a fortnight. If sharing arrangements could be made, the cost to each club, both of upgrading or building a stadium and maintaining it, could be halved."

"A number of cities have two clubs. But such is local rivalry that sharing seems anathema to many. Yet, faced with the costs of seating and ground improvements, it makes financial sense."

Profits from the sale of two stadiums could be reinvested to create a purpose-built arena, the construction costs — and crowd capacities — of

which would be beyond either club on an individual basis. Savings could be spent on players, providing some consolation to supporters for the loss of their traditional home.

Tentative plans for an arena accommodating Sunderland (who face a cut to 14,000 in Roker Park's capacity), Newcastle United and Durham County Cricket Club, and Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday moving to a multi-sports ground originally used for the World Student Games, have been laid.

Tradition, though, holds sway with League directors and supporters alike. Fear of breaking with it lay at the core of Liverpool's and Everton's decision to abandon ideas of sharing a new stadium on Merseyside this summer. Moves to an existing ground and the experience of Crystal Palace and Charlton demonstrate that the effect on the morale of the host is radically different from that of the invader.

Noades points to the advantages: "All building and maintenance costs can be shared, every facility can be sold twice. The ground spends less time idle, and with the Football Trust paying 75 per cent of improvement costs, ourselves and Charlton only

have to find 12.5 per cent apiece of the remainder rather than 25 per cent — a considerable saving."

Mike Norris, vice-chairman of Charlton, takes a different view. "We originally intended this to be a permanent move but, because of the effect on our supporters, it was a mistake and we will be either moving back to The Valley or to a new ground. Playing on a ground decked out in Palace colours is not fair on our supporters."

Noades disagreed: "Next time we would like sharing to be permanent. It did not happen with Charlton but there is the potential to share."

To Twyford, such a utopia is unattainable. "For a start, sharing administrative staff is out of the question," he said. "Apart from the heavy workload — club staff often work a six-day week — a lot of business is confidential and sharing would lead to a conflict of interests."

"But I see no reason why stewards and turnstile operators cannot be pooled. The pitch is not a problem because the two reserve teams can always play elsewhere. Jack Pitt, our groundsmen, would tell you that four teams playing on one pitch would ensure it did not survive the season."

IF THE first division is awaiting, with fear and trepidation, the return to the fold of Leeds United after a ten-year absence, it can rest easy. These days Leeds just want to be loved.

That, of course, is not ultimately the height of their ambition. Recently Bill Fotherby, the club's managing director, was quoted as claiming, with modest Yorkshire reticence, that Leeds would be bigger than Manchester United.

Even the shrewd Howard Wilkinson, who thinks before he speaks and is too intelligent to be given to flights of boastful rhetoric, unlike some of his opposite numbers, talked soberly about seeing Liverpool as the target he and the club have to aim at, beginning forthwith.

But, above all else, those wonderful folks who once brought you Don Revie, Norman Hunter, John Giles, Paul Reaney, Allan Clarke and Billy Bremner just want to be recognised for the warm, caring people they really are.

Sadly, however, overcoming the hostility which is an unavoidable part of the Revie legacy may prove even more difficult than putting Leeds back on a par with Liverpool. Particularly when events like last summer's outing to Bournemouth occur to breathe new life into all the smouldering antagonism which the club's name arouses in normally calm, even passive people.

To add to the problem is the club's endemic paranoia, one part of the Revie inheritance which has not changed in the intervening 20 years, as a visit to the club revealed last week. Fotherby and a gathering of mainly local press spent a happy hour over lunch reassuring each other that the club's problems came down to the unfair London media.

Fortunately, Wilkinson is realistic enough to recognise how debilitating that particular emotion is. "There is an anti-Leeds feeling in the country but if we are not careful we are going to develop a paranoia which will make us even more inward-looking."

Sometimes, of course, people are not being paranoid, they are being unfairly treated. Last season's team might not have been anyone's ideal exponent of the beautiful game but to accuse them of playing "the typical Wilkinson long-ball game" and of being dirty suggested prejudice rather than observation.

Certainly they were competitive, as Wilkinson sides have always tended to be, but after a poor disciplinary record the

PETER BALL drops in on Elland Road, a club that has the image-builders in

previous season, last season showed — considerable improvement. Equally, some of the criticism levelled at Wilkinson personally is grossly unfair.

Far from being the low-browed ideologue of the un-aesthetic and sometimes brutal long-ball game of popular (or at least southern) misconception, he is a much more sympathetic and deeper figure than that. And a far from dogmatic one, as a comparison of the differing teams he produced at Notts County, Sheffield Wednesday and Leeds suggests.

A sharp and articulate analyst, a senior FA coach and a respected voice in the inner circles, Wilkinson thinks about the game and his job in a wider context than many of his more apparently worldly opposite numbers and he has a nice, dry sense of humour which punctuates any tendency towards lecturing — possibly an inheritance from his brief spell as a teacher. And how can you dislike anyone who used to turn up at sedate, unimaginative Sheffield Wednesday in a formal dark suit and Co-respondent's shoes?

After Sheffield, Leeds has given him the shot of adrenalin he wanted. "This place throbs," he said with evident relish, showing me into his third office since his arrival, the other two having been commandeered to keep up with the demands of sponsors and supporters. "There's a crowd in the car park the whole time, it's just so alive."

There is no doubting the hunger for success in West Yorkshire, and that is both Wilkinson's hope and his burden. He talked almost mystically about seizing the

moment, tapping a wave of emotion while it lasts, and has convinced his directors of the need to spend the money necessary to do so. Lukic and McAllister representing another sizeable investment in an already expensive assembled team. But Wilkinson argued, if Liverpool are the competition, what is their team worth?

In the end it would be nice if Leeds could be judged for what they do on the field, where reality rather than image-building sets the time. "You can't just set out to be nice, because that's phoney, you either are nice or not," the manager remarked, although he forebore to recall the days when Revie's Leeds tried to do that by wearing smiley faces as their shirt badges.

"And how do you set out to be nice on the field — by losing? You've got to try and win, so you can only do it by your behaviour, and I know what sort of behaviour I expect from players. We could end up so that the only place this club will be true to itself is on the pitch."

The supporters' problem may be more intractable. Do they, unlike the directors, revel in the club's present image? Wilkinson insisted that Bournemouth had been the only case of trouble for two years, adding: "I have to say that this club's efforts to control the behaviour of its supporters extrinsically, that is away from our ground, is the most comprehensive in football. We have 20,000 ID card holders, for want of a better word, between season ticket-holders, members of the family club and members, so that at home we know two thirds of the people who are coming, and away from home they are the only ones who can get a ticket."

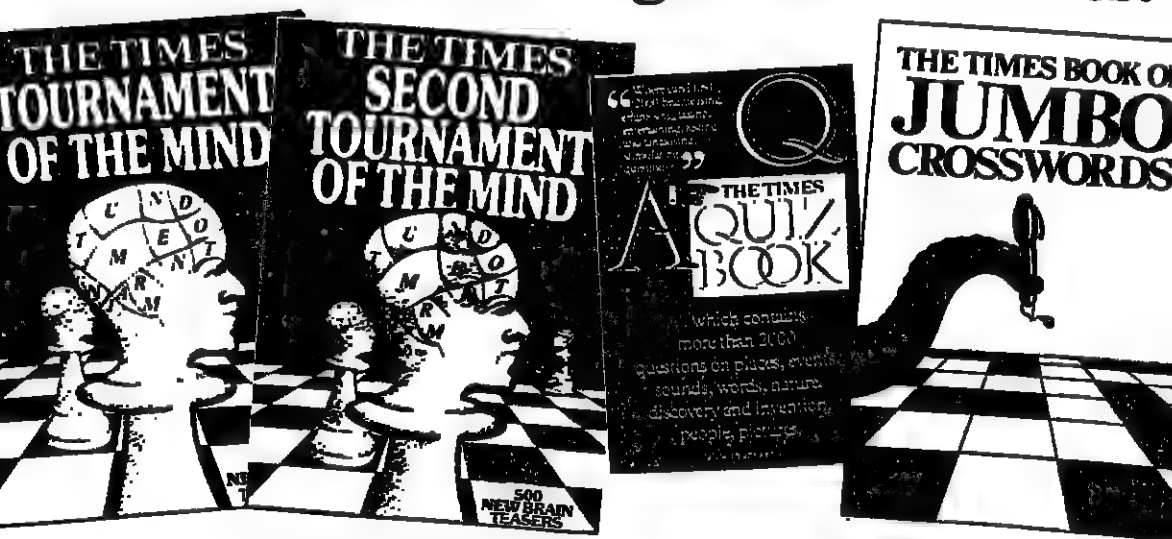
As that suggests, Leeds are trying. This season they are opening a family stand which, with its games lounges, creche facilities and bar, is very much "state of the art", and they hope the increase in family support will help to squeeze out their minority of trouble-makers.

If so, their image will change for the better but, as Bournemouth showed, there is some way to go. For if there are more trouble-makers for two years, unfortunately during that time welcoming crowds to the "happy family club" will see the Elland Road's often unpleasant, almost sinister atmosphere, which made it possibly the most uncomfortable ground in the country to visit. A lot of people say that, Wilkinson admitted.



Wilkinson showed reality

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Family's reunion delayed

THE draw for the Burhill family fourtimes has placed the two entries in the same half of the draw, but far enough apart to prevent a domestic reunion unless they both reach Friday's semi-finals (John Hennessy writes).

In today's first round, Peter Benka, in his prime a Walker Cup man, and his daughter Claire receive three strokes from Stephen Ross and his mother, Ross (three) and Mrs Ross (eight) have a total handicap lower by seven than Benka (two) and his daughter (16).

Pamela Benka, a former Curtis Cup player, and her son, Mark, give five strokes to the Meyers, of Royal Ashdown Forest. The holder, Patrick Lawson and his mother, Jean, concede 10 strokes to Molly Rowledge and her son, Jake, of the host club.

GOLF

Senior is feeling like \$1m again

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN DENVER

PETER Senior was pleased, if a little baffled, by his performance in the International at Castle Pines golf club, Castle Rock, south of Denver on Sunday. He tied for second place on 11 points with Eduardo Romero and Steve Pate, three points behind Davis Love, but barely knew how he had managed it.

The stocky Australian, who led his country's Order of Merit with earnings of about Aus\$900,000, had suffered such a slump in form over the last few months that he felt he had to take several weeks off to try to unscramble matters.

"The last three months have been terrible, so this was a bit of a surprise," Senior admitted. "I haven't made a cut in Europe since Sweden in early June and I'd taken six weeks off to try and get my thinking back. I played in the US Open, then took two weeks off. Then I played in the

CYCLING

Debutant sprints to world best

MAEBASHU (Reuters) — Michael Hubner, the former leading amateur, made a dramatic start to his first world championships as a professional by shattering a record on the opening day.

Hubner, aged 31, the first East German track cyclist to race for money, set a mark of 10.345sec for the 200 metres flying start in the professional sprint event in the evening, breaking the record of 10.41sec held by Stephen Pate, of Australia, in the qualifying round.

Hubner, who competes for the Histor-Sigma team in Berlin, said: "To go under ten seconds was my dream. But the conditions were colder than in practice when I had a better time."

Hubner pushed the 1989 champion, Claudio Golinetti, of Italy, into the second qualifying place, with Pate, the defending champion, third. Golinetti and Pate also bettered the record, setting times of 10.357 and 10.400.

Bill Huck, the defending champion, qualified as the fastest rider in the amateur sprint, completing the 200 metres from a flying start in 10.153.

RESULTS: Men: Professional sprint 10.345: Michael Hubner (GER), 10.357: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.400: Stephen Pate (AUS), 10.415: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.425: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.435: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.445: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.455: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.465: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.475: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.485: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.495: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.505: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.515: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.525: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.535: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.545: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.555: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.565: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.575: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.585: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 10.595: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.005: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.015: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.025: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.035: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.045: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.055: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.065: Claudio Golinetti (ITA), 11.075: Claudio 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Moxon remains at helm to steady the Yorkshire ship

100

The first piece of 'family silver' is sold as one of the country's five national sports centres prepares to go private

Bisham enters an enterprising era

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE controversy over the future of Britain's five national sports centres will escalate this autumn when Bisham Abbey becomes the first to be run by a private company.

Sebastian Coe has warned that the 'family silver' is up for grabs while the Sports Council, which underwrites the centres used by Britain's elite competitors, has insisted that it will get better value for money while safeguarding the primary objective of the centres - the pursuit of excellence.

On November 1, a private company will take over Bisham, which has been extensively used by England's World Cup football team, the British hockey team which won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympics, the national weightlifting squad and also the Lawn Tennis Association as a training centre.

Bisham Abbey is delightfully situated on the Thames, near Marlow, and its potential as a location for weddings, receptions and conferences is immense. However, its scope for exploitation has always been restricted because of the constraints of having to be available for the elite competitor. Few brides would welcome receptions being held to a background of Paul Gascoigne rehearsing free kicks or weightlifters dropping 500lb bar-bells.

Those in favour of competitive tendering of the five centres - the others are Crystal Palace, Lilleshall, Holme Pierrepont and Plas-y-Brenin - argue that the new management team will have the opportunity to develop the centres while maintaining the service for the national governing bodies and reducing the cost to the taxpayer of more than £3 million a year.

However Coe, and some administrators, maintain that to 'privatise' the centres implies that



Two men in a boat: David Westgarth (left), of the Sports Council, and Geoff Huckstep, of Bisham Abbey, afloat together yesterday

Britain will not treat them as a 'sporting investment'.

Coe wrote in *The Times* in March: 'I do not think you can have it both ways. Excellence by its very nature is costly, in sport as in any activity. It requires

Some administrators fear that there will be pressure from the new management teams to develop the centre commercially, and this is bound to affect the provision of facilities. Unlike local sports centres, there is no compulsion from government to have competitive

tendering of national centres. Into this controversy has stepped Geoff Huckstep, the new general manager of Bisham, who is a former manager of Knaresborough and is steeped in sports and leisure development in the private sector. As assistant

manager of the centre for the last eight months, he already has a detailed knowledge of Bisham. He led the in-house team which won the contract from 22 other companies. It is his task not just to reduce the deficit on the running costs of £220,000 a year but to make

enough profit to ensure its viability as a private enterprise. Bisham is a splendidly appointed centre with 29 beds in the Abbey itself - parts of which date from the 13th century - and 60 more in the block built in 1977.

There are four indoor and ten outdoor tennis courts, three football pitches, the biggest astro-turf artificial surface in Europe, a par-three nine-hole golf course, two squash courts and a weightlifting gym and fitness suite. Huckstep stresses that, although the national governing bodies will always get priority, he can make Bisham more efficient.

He says that some of the 60 full and part-time staff will be redeployed, with the agreement of the unions. Savings can be made in overtime payments at the weekends. The staff are now paid like civil servants at a rate of one-and-a-half times on Saturday and double on Sunday. There are no such payments in the leisure world which, in future, will be at a same rate as weekdays.

He has plans to refurbish the bar and to improve the catering which, although of good nutritional value, is basic. He says: 'We have to think about the under utilisation of the centre and its facilities. There has been a very passive approach to marketing. We must be more proactive in this area.'

David Westgarth, the Sports Council's director of national centres, said that the change-over will be the best thing that has ever happened to the centres. 'We are throwing the pieces up in the air and assembling them in a different form,' he said.

Huckstep is enthusiastic about prospects. 'How about a slogan in the area enticing people into Bisham: "Train where the Olympians train"?' he said. 'I will be able to do that now. What a seller it could be.'

SQUASH RACKETS

Two steps separate title from Davies

From COLIN MCQUILLAN IN ROTTERDAM

ADRIAN Davies yesterday had just two matches away from capturing the first European closed squash championships for Wales, a feat that would appeal both to his sense of humour and his staunch patriotism.

Wales had become something of a bawdier in world squash. Davies, the first European champion, was the first Welshman to win the title, a feat that would appeal both to his sense of humour and his staunch patriotism.

For Davies to be representing the European men's field with jocularly skilful performances against Jochen Ar, the German No. 2, and Fredrick Johnson, the Swedish No. 2, is against all the international trends of recent years.

The game is in such poor financial shape west of the Bristol Channel that no junior team could be sent to the world championships in West Germany earlier this month.

Yet Davies, under Edwards, combining shrewd professionalism with outrageous nerve, have put Wales firmly back on the squash map. The Welsh Wizards, albeit with considerable Australian, Canadian, Scottish and English input, are reigning league champions. The Welsh Cup has been the year's richest prize fund on the men's international circuit.

If Davies can beat Philip Kenyon in a European semi-final and either Chris Walker or Philip Whiston in the final today, he will also have deprived England of a continental first.

England will also have a finalist for the women's championship. Seema Macfie and Caroline Mett play in the semi-finals. The opponent will be either Babette Hoogendoorn, of The Netherlands, or Daniela Grunz, of West Germany.

Results of the day: England (W) 3-1 Wales (W); P. Kenyon (Eng) 9-4 A. Davies (W); P. Whiston (Eng) 9-4 A. Davies (W); C. Walker (Eng) 9-4 A. Davies (W); D. Grunz (W) 9-4 A. Davies (W); S. Macfie (Eng) 9-4 A. Davies (W); S. Macfie (Eng) 9-4 A. Davies (W).

MODERN PENTATHLON

First-class efforts by Britons

By MICHAEL COLEMAN

THIRTY-SIX competitors bettered 3,000 points - the yardstick of a first-class competitor - at the modern pentathlon championships which concluded in Budapest on Sunday. Two of them, Craig Manley and John Marshall, were British, and their strong finishing hoisted their team up to ninth out of 27.

Manley swam fourth fastest in the 300 metres with 3min 16sec, a personal best, while Marshall was second in the show jumping with a clear round.

Results of the day: 1. F. Kenyon (W), 10,000; 2. P. Kenyon (Eng), 9,500; 3. P. Whiston (Eng), 9,000; 4. C. Walker (Eng), 8,500; 5. D. Grunz (W), 8,000; 6. S. Macfie (Eng), 7,500; 7. S. Macfie (Eng), 7,000; 8. S. Macfie (Eng), 6,500; 9. S. Macfie (Eng), 6,000; 10. S. Macfie (Eng), 5,500; 11. S. Macfie (Eng), 5,000; 12. S. Macfie (Eng), 4,500; 13. S. Macfie (Eng), 4,000; 14. S. Macfie (Eng), 3,500; 15. S. Macfie (Eng), 3,000; 16. S. Macfie (Eng), 2,500; 17. S. Macfie (Eng), 2,000; 18. S. Macfie (Eng), 1,500; 19. S. Macfie (Eng), 1,000; 20. S. Macfie (Eng), 500; 21. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 22. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 23. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 24. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 25. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 26. S. Macfie (Eng), 0; 27. S. Macfie (Eng), 0.

SHOOTING

Leatherdale best over three days

By OUR RIFLE SHOOTING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Leatherdale, of Norwich, the international pistol marksman, won the A J Clark trophy, in effect the victor of the NSRA British pistol championships, at Bisley yesterday after putting up the best overall performance over three days.

He won back the Stockholm Shield for free pistol which he lost last year, and the Allies Cup for the short range open, but was beaten for the Gallic Cup in the British open 50 yards event, which went to Dick Horrocks, of Whalley, Pictol Club, Manchester.

Leatherdale won the NSRA Trophy in the Class X grand aggregate with 954 points, four ahead of Tony Warren, the former RAF champion now out of the service but still shooting for the RAF pistol club.

Warren had a convincing win in the standard handgun event, scoring 586 for a lead of nine points over the Cleveland police inspector, William Armstrong, but Warren met his match in the standard pistol event when he was beaten by David Levene, of Wembley, on 366. Levene then beat him in the tie shoot by the high score of 189-185.

Bryony Young, of Little Chalfont, who has been making steady progress this season in the sport pistol event, took the women's title and Evan Price, of Leatherdale, took the women's title.

LEAGUE CRICKET RESULTS

Southampton 170-6, Birmingham 127-5; Gloucestershire 155-6, Essex 105-7; Warwickshire 148-6, Lancashire 105-7; Yorkshire 148-6, Kent 105-7; Derbyshire 148-6, Leicestershire 105-7; Nottinghamshire 148-6, Northamptonshire 105-7; Middlesex 148-6, Surrey 105-7; Oxfordshire 148-6, Devon 105-7; Cornwall 148-6, Somerset 105-7; Gloucestershire 148-6, Warwickshire 105-7; Lancashire 148-6, Yorkshire 105-7; Kent 148-6, Derbyshire 105-7; Leicestershire 148-6, Nottinghamshire 105-7; Northamptonshire 148-6, Middlesex 105-7; Surrey 148-6, Oxfordshire 105-7; Devon 148-6, Cornwall 105-7; Somerset 148-6, Gloucestershire 105-7; Warwickshire 148-6, Lancashire 105-7; Yorkshire 148-6, Kent 105-7; Derbyshire 148-6, Leicestershire 105-7; Nottinghamshire 148-6, Northamptonshire 105-7; Middlesex 148-6, Surrey 105-7; Oxfordshire 148-6, Devon 105-7; Cornwall 148-6, Somerset 105-7; Gloucestershire 148-6, Warwickshire 105-7; Lancashire 148-6, Yorkshire 105-7; Kent 148-6, Derbyshire 105-7; Leicestershire 148-6, Nottinghamshire 105-7; 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